

2016

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BACK
AT 2015

LOOKING
FORWARD
TO 2016

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THE gateway

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Suite 3-04

Students' Union Building

University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta

T66 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168

Fax 780.492.6665

Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700

Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

business staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Beth Mansell

beth.mansell@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669

WEBMASTER Alex Shevchenko

webmaster@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorial staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Cam Lewis

eic@gateway.ualberta.ca

MANAGING EDITOR Kieran Chrysler

managing@gateway.ualberta.ca

ONLINE EDITOR Kevin Schenk

online@gateway.ualberta.ca

NEWS EDITOR Richard Catangay-Liew

news@gateway.ualberta.ca

OPINION EDITOR Josh Greschner

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR Jonathan Zilinski

arts@gateway.ualberta.ca

SPORTS EDITOR Zach Borutski

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR Oumar Salifou

multimedia@gateway.ualberta.ca

PHOTO EDITOR Christina Varvis

photo@gateway.ualberta.ca

DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR Adaire Beatty

production@gateway.ualberta.ca

STAFF REPORTER Jamie Sarkonak

onlinenews@gateway.ualberta.ca

STAFF REPORTER Mitch Sorensen

deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca

contributors

Christian Pagnani, Alyssa Demers, Raylene Lung, Stefan Makowski, Rachael Phillips, Sam Podgurny, Zach Popowich, Josh Hickmore, Pia Araneta, Jessica Watson, Spencer Nichols, Jimmy Nguyen, Alex McPhee

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colophon

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Meeting UAlberta

Robyn Paches

BUSINESS IV



Gateway: What did you do over the Christmas break?

Paches: Main thing, went back home, up to Athabasca, two hours north of here, then went on the New Year's Ski Trip with the Ski Club.

Gateway: Do you have a New Year's Resolution?

Paches: I haven't found one yet, cause I don't stick to them as

much as I'd like to. But as far as something I'd like to do, it'd probably be to devote more time to schoolwork than to fun things.

Gateway: Do you have a New Year's Resolution?

Paches: I admire people that can keep them, but you have to set your goals correctly, otherwise there's no point in setting them.

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Cell: 780-905-0132

Tel: 780-434-3001 or 780-434-3002

News

News Editor
Richard Catangay-Liew

Email
news@gateway.ualberta.ca

Phone
780.492.5168

Twitter
@RichardCLiew

Volunteer

News meetings every Monday at 3pm in SUB 3-04

Polar explorer makes way to warmer Edmonton temps

Jamie Sarkonak

STAFF REPORTER • @SWAGONAK

With a degree in Classics and a career in theatre, Hannah McKeand had never envisioned a career in Antarctica. But after working for 11 years, she is coming to the U of A next week to speak about her experiences.

McKeand set her first world record in 2006 for the fastest unassisted journey from the Antarctic coast to the South Pole. The 1,100 kilometre trek took her 39 days, 9 hours and 33 minutes, a record which she held until 2008. She has since achieved a second world record, having skied to the South Pole more than any other person in history.

Though McKeand has journeyed through the Arctic, Northeast Africa and the Middle East, her specialty is the Antarctic, where she works as a guide and logistics consultant.

Skiing to the South Pole was McKeand's initial goal with Antarctica. In 2004 she visited the continent for the first time as a client for the company that later hired her as a guide. In a guided group, McKean made her first journey from coast to the pole. Her Antarctic "baptism of fire" took 56 days.

"It was really natural, I just got it," she said. "I had no background in

anything like that at all."

Now, McKeand works as a guide and camp manager, working with people to achieve their own expedition goals in the Antarctic. She feels the most at home on the continent, calling herself an "Antarctic Citizen." McKeand feels blessed in having a career that gives her the feeling of being "really, really good at something," she said.

"When I'm on Antarctica and I'm looking after people there, that's the thing that I'm good at. I am one of the best in the world at that," McKeand said. "In the months that I'm there, I get to be the best version of myself."

One of McKeand's camps is only two kilometres away from an emperor penguin colony — some curious members even visit the camp. People aren't allowed to approach the penguins, but the penguins haven't read the rulebook, McKeand said.

"We'll dig a hole in the ground to make a freezer for our frozen food, and the penguins are beside themselves," she said. "They're like, 'Oh my goodness, we must investigate the hole and slide into the hole and have trouble getting out of the hole.'"

This year, the crew had to dig a penguin steps so it could exit the freezer hole. Managing guest camps in Antarctica also comes with challenges.



ARCTIC EXPLORER Hannah McKeand will be giving a talk at the Telus Building on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

SUPPLIED

Camps are vulnerable to a wide range of environmental phenomena. This year's El Niño put a camp on sea ice at risk of breaking off from the mainland, making for five weeks of being sleep-deprived, waking up "30 times a night and wondering if we're moving," McKeand said.

"I think it's really healthy for us to get in tough with what it's like to be a human animal," she said. "It's really only those wild, barren places that we get to tough on that."

McKeand will journey from her home in Salt Lake City to Edmonton to speak on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at the

Telus Building, where she'll tell her "rags-to-riches" story of becoming a worldwide expeditioner and go into depth on her journeys to the South Pole. Entry is \$10 for students and \$15 for public. Tickets are being sold by the Outdoors Club during office hours and over email.

Sleiman's vote tampering campaign highlights '15 campus news

Richard Catangay-Liew

NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

As part of *The Gateway's* annual Year-In-Review, the news team has compiled our favourite campus, local, provincial, national and international headlines. Check out thegatewayonline.ca for the full stories.

Students' Council censures Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative Sangram Hansra

In a symbolic move, the U of A's Students' Council censured Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative Sangram Hansra for "creating an environment in which students felt unsafe or intimidated" and "compromising the Students' Union advocacy efforts."

Council approved the motion in a secret ballot, with 21 votes in favour and 12 votes opposed after debating the issue for approximately three hours in a private, in-camera session.

To censure means to formally disapprove of a member in a legislative body.

Former SU Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Cory Hodgson and Faculty of Arts councillor Marina Banister moved to censure Hansra after several people approached them, who provided anonymous testimonials regarding Hansra's behaviour as an elected representative of the undergraduate student body. The testimonials were provided to council after they moved in camera due to the sensitive nature of the allegations made against Hansra.

Banister, who told *The Gateway* in April that she voted in favour of the motion on her secret ballot, said she "wholeheartedly believes it was the most appropriate thing to do."

"Prior to this process, people



COMING CLEAN Samer Sleiman's tactics in the 2015 SU elections was the biggest story of 2015.

SPENCER NICHOLS

approached me indicating that they felt this was a good thing to do ... as a result, I went about things," she said.

"Based off of the testimonials, I believe we made the right decision."

'I'm feeling a little bit at peace:' Sleiman admits to vote tampering

You can't blame Students' Union executive hopefuls for being competitive, and doing whatever they can to win. Except when their campaign tactics are downright dirty.

Students' Union Vice-President (Operations & Finance) candidate Samer Sleiman admitted to tampering with votes in the 2015 SU elections after the Chief Returning Officer disqualified him for a second time.

Sleiman was accused of voting for himself using students' CCID without their consent, as he was reportedly taking their phones when he told them he was going to show them how to vote.

One student admitted to being anxious that Sleiman had the information to access their confidential Bear Tracks and eClass accounts.

Another recalled trying to cast a vote for presidential candidate Navneet Khinda before Sleiman pulled the phone away and said "no, no, no."

In a sit-down interview with *The Gateway's* Alex Migdal, Sleiman admitted to the fraudulent voting tactics.

Sleiman conceded the VP (OpsFi) race, which was won by opposing candidate Cody Bondarchuk.

SU to create a replacement for suspended Lister Hall Students' Association

The Students' Union is moving forward on plans to create a replacement organization for the disbanded Lister Hall Students' Association.

After a hazing incident involved with Skulk festivities, the Lister Hall

Students' Association (LHSA) was suspended from registering as a student group as of May 1, 2014. A two-year suspension will be up after the next academic year, around August 2017. In the interim, the SU is creating a new organization to take the place of the LHSA.

According to Students' Union President Navneet Khinda at a students' council forum on Tuesday, Oct. 27, the university doesn't agree with the creation of a new group. Khinda said the SU "doesn't need permission" from the university to create the new group, and cited their right as per the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA). Despite concerns that the current nameless students' association will become a "shadow group" of the LHSA, the new group will be the sole representative student body for Lister Hall, Khinda said.

Since that point, LHSA coffers have been cleared out and, according to Khinda, "there is no organization

left." Khinda made sure to insist that the new organization would not be a "rebrand" of the LHSA.

Now that the SU has assumed responsibility for the role and finances of the LHSA, Khinda said that a new organization would mean fewer hours spent by the SU on these issues.

Student-organized sex orgy comes to the U of A

Our most viewed story of the year — and all-time — is the infamous U of A orgy organized for and by students.

Orgies are traditionally an odd taboo subject matter, but the freaky sex party, which was open to all U of A students, provided they complete a screening process.

Gender and sexuality ratios will be kept as close to equal as possible, to make sure nobody feels outnumbered or left out. The group is sex-positive, and said they are accepting of anyone on the gender and sexuality spectra to attend. It's challenging to keep a balance, but keeping relatively equal numbers from all groups is important for the group's comfort, U of A student and organizer Matthew James Hardy said.

Despite the popular view that only males want to participate in group sex, there's been equal anonymous interest from both men and women. "Slut-shaming" culture tends to make women more hesitant, but there are indeed confirmed female attendees for November's event. There has also been interest from LGBT individuals as well, Hardy said.

The idea in the end is to just help people express themselves in a safe environment, Hardy said.

"I don't like the idea of having to hide what you enjoy just because someone else may find it distasteful," he said.

Notley tops Alberta's 2015 headlines

Richard Catangay-Liew

NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

Orange Crush “makes a little history” in AB

Rachel Notley and the Alberta New Democratic Party squashed the Tory regime, en route to a majority provincial government which had been under Progressive Conservative control for 44 years.

Former Alberta and Tory leader Jim Prentice resigned from his post as MLA and as party leader immediately after the wave of orange swept the province.

A raucous NDP headquarters at the Westin Hotel in downtown Edmonton welcomed Notley to the reigns of Alberta. The exuberant crowds watched as the NDP were elected to 53 of 87 seats in the Legislative Assembly.

The commanding win by the Alberta NDP came just months after former Wildrose Party Danielle Smith defected to the Tories in late 2014.

The Notley NDPs are the fifth party to lead Alberta since 1905. The 53 seats, including a clean sweep of the capital, dwarfs the NDP's previous record in Alberta, which was 16 in the 1986 and 1989 elections.

While the jubilant NDP supporters and MLAs celebrated their historic win, they would get to work the next day.

AB Economy

The price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil plummeted from \$53 US a barrel to \$35 over the year. The nose-dive in oil price came just one year after the province announced a record \$107 a barrel.

Alberta faced an estimated \$5 billion revenue deficit, the largest in history.



CRUSHING CONSERVATIVES Notley and the NDP was the biggest story in AB. RICHARD LIEW

Former Minister of Finance Robin Campbell announced the revenue shortfall at March's 2015 Budget announcement. Campbell went on to say that the province wasn't expecting to return to a budget surplus until 2017-18.

The economy hit the post-secondary sector hard. The Campus Alberta grant was announced to be diminished by \$28 million in 2015-16 and by \$60 million in 2016-17. The cuts to Alberta advanced education institutions were then reversed by the Notley NDPs in Bill 3, and subsequently in their budget announcement.

EPS Const. Daniel Woodall killed on duty; brings community together

It doesn't happen that often, but when it did, all of Edmonton was brought together.

Edmonton Police Service Const.

Daniel Woodall was shot and killed while on a warrant and arrest assignment in Ormsby Place, West Edmonton on June 8.

The 35-year-old husband of two was the lead investigator on a case to get Normal Walter Raddatz to come outside. The case was described by police as Raddatz did not comply, and shot through the door Woodall and his team were attempting to break through, killing him. Raddatz then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide in the basement.

Community residents showed an outpouring of support for Woodall and the Edmonton Police Services, as they tied blue ribbons on neighbourhood lampposts to show their support for the fallen officer.

Woodall's death was the first EPS casualty in the line of duty since June 25, 1990, and the 100th to die in Alberta between 1876 and 2015.

Board of Governors

COMPILED BY Richard Liew

Board of Governors approves increases to international student tuition

University of Alberta administration tabled a 1.6 per cent increase to international tuition fees, effective Sept. 1, 2016, which passed with one vote against and one noted abstention.

With Bill 3, the Alberta NDP's announced a two-year freeze on regulated domestic tuition, mandatory non-instructional fees and the previously approved market modifier increases. The Bill offset the Tories' 1.4 per cent slash to the Campus Alberta Grant in March 2015, as the NDP's announced two per cent grant increase for the 2015-16 academic year, worth \$6.9 million, covering the previously introduced tuition and market modifier increases.

Instructional tuition fees are provincially regulated, but the regulation does not apply to individuals who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. Universities did not receive funding in Bill 3 to offset the losses of the international market modifier and tuition increases.

The rise in international tuition is in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a Canadian indicator of consumer costs over time and allows the university to adjust their budget due to inflation. Graduate Students' Association President Colin More voted in favour of the increase, as they support CPI, but noted how he was disappointed that international and domestic fees are treated differently.

Students' Union President Navneet Khinda opposed the increase in international fees and was the only BoG member to vote against the motion. This makes it difficult for international students to plan for future years in their degree, Khinda said after the meeting. But next year's 1.6 per cent increase is "nice" as its due to inflation, she added.

Tuition and fees account for 18 per cent of the of the U of A's revenue.

Residence rental rates to increase

U of A Ancillary Services do not receive base operating funding to build and maintain student residences. The university approved a 1.7 per cent increase to base rent costs in the 2016-17 academic year, as the BoG voted in favour of the proposal, with no votes against and one abstention due to conflict of interest.

The increases are differential to select residences, ranging from 2.5 per cent to 30 per cent.

The notable 30 per cent increase in Maple and Aspen Houses (formerly ECV) will go towards renovations and furnishing, and reflect a seven-year payback. Changing the unfurnished residences of Maple and Aspen Houses will allow the university to have greater control over issues such as bed bugs and the move-in move-out process, Hickey said.

Khinda voted in favour of the increase but commented that if the university wants to keep its residents diverse, it can't be increasing rent by 30 per cent. The tenants of the U of A's more expensive residences are already "homogenous."

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FIVE THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR IN 2016

Written by Mitch Sorensen

Nobody can predict what will happen in and around the University of Alberta in the coming year. Despite this, several events and announcements from last year will probably make the news again in 2016. Here's what to watch for on campus in the next year.

LISTER'S CHANGING FACE

A lot has happened to the U of A's main undergraduate residence in the past year, and more changes are promised from university leadership.

With approximately 15 per cent of students currently in residence, the U of A has set the goal of housing 25 per cent of students in residence. With the fifth Lister Tower under construction, President David Turpin's pledge of giving all first year students a place in residence is beginning to materialize.

In these proposed changes to student demographics in Lister, there has been some controversy surrounding the creation of a new representative body for students in the residence.

With the now-disbanded Lister Hall Student Association out of the picture, the Students' Union is leading the implementation of a replacement representative body for students in Lister.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE STEP PROGRAM

In a November press conference in the Students' Union Building, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Minister of Advanced Education Lori Sigurdson pledged \$10 million to restore the previously cut Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP).

The money will help fund 3,000 jobs, beginning in 2016-17. The return of STEP was significant lobbying point for the Council of Alberta

University Students, and the program will work with municipalities, non-profits, and other organizations to put students to work.

"It was really great to hear," SU Vice-President (External) Dylan Hanwell said at the press conference last year. "This is something we've been lobbying for since STEP was cut. It's really great to hear that not only is the government bringing the program back, but its more money than was originally in it."

Prior to Notley and Sigurdson's announcement, Alberta was the only province in Canada to not offer an employment program for post-secondary students.

STEP, which was initially established in 1972 by then-Premier Peter Lougheed, aims to better the summer job market for students, providing the experience so necessary in today's job market.

PETER LOUGHEED LEADERSHIP COLLEGE RESIDENCE

In another step to bring more residence spaces to campus, the Peter Lougheed Leadership College welcomed its inaugural cohort of students this year.

With the goal of bringing together students into a cohort based on "exemplary" leadership and academic experience, the first class of 60 third-year students from a variety of faculties was announced in September.

UASU VP Academic Fahim Rahman has drawn attention to a lack of student consultation and accountability in the creation of the college.

The initiative has been heavily criticized for

perceived elitism and exclusivity, and it remains to be seen the impact the College will have on student culture at the U of A.

The Parkland Institute, office spaces and campus residences such as EcoHouse were all given notice over the summer of 2013 to vacate the land surrounding Saskatchewan Drive for construction of the building.

TURPIN, UNIVERSITY ADMIN DEVELOPING NEW STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONAL PLAN

Since November, University of Alberta President David Turpin and Vice-President (Academic) Steven Dew have been formulating a new strategic institutional plan.

Serving to "establish concrete, achievable and measureable goals and strategies that will support (the U of A's) vision," the plan will serve as a guiding document for the future of the university.

As a president still fairly new to the office, Turpin pointed to "defining the U of A as a leading national and international university" as the main goal of the document.

The Students' Union has made recommendations in four areas: affordability, teaching and learning quality, opportunities in transformative learning and campus culture that will provide context for achieving all of the above.

The SU suggests the development of more open education resources (OERs) to use as course materials. OERs are more flexible to use and have been effective in saving students money at other institutions. The SU also wants

the university to increase funding for bursaries and grants.

To improve the learning experience of students, the university is asked to recognize and reward quality professors to create a culture of teaching excellence. Growing class sizes have also been a problem at the U of A, which the SU suggests to outline a multi-year plan for faculty recruitment.

Given the growing importance of practical skills in job markets, the SU suggests the creation a centralized office for experiential learning. The SU also wants the university to increase its support of extracurricular leadership opportunities.

Continuing mental health support and improving access to student involvement on campus are both priorities of the SU. To improve student consultation, the university is also recommended to adopt the Student Participation Protocol, which was co-signed by the SU and the GSA in January 2015.

UNIVERSITY TO NAME NEW CHANCELLOR

With Ralph Young stepping down from his position in June 2016, the university has officially commenced its search for a new chancellor.

With nominations open until March, the Senate will appoint the new Chancellor by vote in their May 6 session.

The Chancellor chairs the U of A Senate and serves on the Board of Governors. They represent the public in the university and also presides over degree ceremonies at the U of A.

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TRUDEAU IS TOPS The Liberal government and Justin Trudeau was the biggest story in Canada. KEVIN SCHENK

Sunny Ways dominates national news

Mitch Sorensen
STAFF REPORTER • @SONOFAMITCHH

Trudeau and the Liberals form government

After a 2011 election that saw them win only 34 seats in Parliament, Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Party of Canada won a 184-seat majority in October.

With a longest-ever campaigning period of 78 days, polls in August saw the New Democrat Party leading both the Progressive Conservative and Liberal Parties. Throughout the campaign, Trudeau and the Liberals gained significant ground, with the NDP taking significant losses and the PCs polling consistently.

On election day, the Liberals received 39.47 per cent of the popular vote and experienced the largest swing in seat numbers of any Canadian election. PC leader Stephen Harper resigned after his party came out of the election with 61 fewer seats. Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe followed suit after he lost the race in his own constituency.

Though several campaign promises, such as taking in Syrian refugees and reversing the ban on blood donation by gay men, it remains to be seen the changes that will be made in the Liberal budget and other legislation.

Canada welcomes Syrian refugees

With promises to resettle 25,000 people fleeing the violence in Syria, Canada has officially opened its doors to refugees.

Now that the #WelcomeRefugees program is in full effect, 6,300 have arrived in Canada, and more than 21,000 refugee applications are in progress or finalized. Prime Minister Trudeau was on hand to welcome the first wave of migrants to Canada, making international headlines in the process.

Trudeau's initial goal to resettle 25,000 refugees by

the end of December never came to fruition, that process is now slated to take until the end of February. Saying plans changed when increased security screening was moved overseas in response to the Paris attacks, Trudeau said he wanted to provide reassurance to Canadians.

Though the crisis in Syria remains a large priority for the Liberal government, the effects of the operation are not yet apparent.

Truth and reconciliation commission

Officially established in June 2008, the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission passed down its final recommendations regarding the legacy of residential schools.

Operating for over a century, over 150,000 Aboriginal children went through the residential school system. With the stated aim of assimilating the children into majority culture, allegations of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse as well as neglect towards students were widespread.

Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper established the TRC, which gathered testimonials from residential school survivors across the country. In 2014, the commission reported that over 4,000 children had died in the residential schools.

The TRC's final report outlined 94 separate "Calls to Action" to "redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation." These recommendations included the establishment of an inquiry to investigate missing and murdered aboriginal women, closing the education gap for Aboriginal people, and several calls for funding commemorative holidays and memorials.

How many of these recommendations will actually be enacted by the Liberals remains a topic of contention in and out of government.

ISIL, terrorist attacks besiege world news

Mitch Sorensen
STAFF REPORTER • @SONOFAMITCHH

Worldwide terrorist attacks

Emotion and worldwide attention was drawn to Paris, France on Nov. 13 when a stadium, concert hall, and numerous restaurants and bars were attacked with shootings and bomb blasts.

Explosions were detonated outside the Stade de France football stadium, and concert-goers were killed when gunmen opened fire at the Bataclan concert hall during a performance by the band Eagles of Death Metal. The attack was heralded as the biggest and deadliest attack in France since World War II.

France declared a state of emergency in response and imposed temporary border checks. A few days later, the city of Brussels went into lockdown as the terrorist threat was raised to the highest level.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant claimed responsibility for the attacks, which resulted in 130 deaths and hundreds of injuries.

Other terrorist attacks in the year included a 148 person massacre at the Garissa University in Kenya. 39 people were also killed in Sousse, Tunisia after a gunman opened fire on a beach resort.

Same-sex marriage legalized in the United States

At the end of June, the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage across the United States.



SUPPLIED

Previous to the ruling, 14 states had bans on same-sex marriage.

The ruling was met with worldwide celebration and support — human rights activists had been campaigning since the 1970s.

Pluto

The appearance of the former ninth planet of the solar system was revealed this year by NASA's high-resolution photos, taken in a historic flyby by spacecraft New Horizons in July. Previously the world only knew Pluto through pixelated images.

The new photos showed Pluto in as a reddish-brown planet with a heart-shaped white mountain range.



GOLDEN BEARS AND PANDAS ATHLETICS WINTER SEMESTER HOME SCHEDULE



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	Sat Jan 16	6:00pm	British Columbia
	Fri Jan 22	7:00pm	Regina
	Sat Jan 23	6:00pm	Regina
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	Fri Feb 5	7:00pm	Saskatchewan
1	Sat Feb 6	6:00pm	Saskatchewan
	Sat Feb 13	6:00pm	Mount Royal

CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS

Feb 19-21	Quarterfinals
Feb 26-28	Semifinals
Mar 4-6	Finals

CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 17-20	@ Halifax (SMU)
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BASKETBALL

CANADA WEST CONFERENCE GAMES

		Pandas	Golden Bears	
	Fri Jan 15	6:00pm	8:00pm	Victoria
4	Sat Jan 16	5:00pm	7:00pm	Victoria
3	Fri Feb 5	6:00pm	8:00pm	Trinity Western
1	Sat Feb 6	5:00pm	7:00pm	Trinity Western
	Sat Feb 20	5:00pm	7:00pm	Calgary

CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS

Feb 26-28	Play In Series
Mar 4-6	Quarterfinals
Mar 11-12	Final Four

CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 17-20	@ UNB	@ UBC
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HOCKEY

CANADA WEST CONFERENCE GAMES

	Fri Jan 8	7:00pm	Manitoba
	Sat Jan 9	2:00pm	Manitoba
2	Sat Jan 30	6:00pm	Calgary
3	Fri Feb 12	7:00pm	Mount Royal

CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS

Feb 19-21	Quarterfinals
Feb 26-28	Semifinals
Mar 4-6	Finals

CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 17-20	@ Calgary
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VOLLEYBALL

CANADA WEST CONFERENCE GAMES

		Pandas	Golden Bears	
2	Fri Jan 22	6:00pm	7:30pm	British Columbia
	Sat Jan 23	6:30pm	5:00pm	British Columbia
3	Fri Feb 12	6:00pm	7:30pm	Calgary
	Sat Feb 13	6:30pm	5:00pm	Calgary

CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS

Feb 26-28	Quarterfinals
Mar 4-6	Final Four

CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 11-13	@ Brandon	@ McMaster
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GOLF

May 28-Jun 3 University/College Championship @Parksville, BC



CURLING

Feb 26-28 CIS/CCA Western Regionals @ Saville Centre

Mar 19-23 CIS CCA University Championship @ Kelowna



SWIMMING

Feb 13 UofA/UofC Dual Meet @ UofA Pool

Feb 26-28 CIS Championship @ Laval



TRACK & FIELD

Jan 22-23 Golden Bears Open

Feb 12-13 Golden Bears Challenge

Feb 26-27 CW Championship @ Saskatoon, SK

Mar 10-12 CIS Championship @ Toronto, ON



WRESTLING

Jan 8-9 Golden Bears Invitational

Feb 12-13 CW Championship @ Winnipeg

Feb 26-27 CIS Championship @ Brock



TENNIS

Feb 12-14 Prairie Regionals @ Edmonton

Aug 12-14 University & College Championship @ Montreal

HOME GAME VENUES

Golden Bears and Pandas Hockey play at
Clare Drake Arena 88 ave. & 115 st.

Basketball and Volleyball play at
Saville Community Sports Centre 11610-65 ave.

Rugby plays at Ellerslie Rugby Park
11004 Ellerslie Road SW

Wrestling, Track and Field & Swimming compete at
UofA Pavilion / Van Vliet Complex 87 ave. & 114 st.

Football, Soccer, Tennis & Curling play at Saville
Community Sports Centre / Foote Field 67 ave. & 114 st.

Event Times are Mountain Time

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION

780.492.BEAR (2327)

On Game Day at the Playing Venue Main Ticket Booth,
or in advance at the Customer Service Centre Sales
Office 1-213 Van Vliet Complex, University of Alberta
Campus: 780.492.BEAR (2327)

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8:00am - 7:00pm
Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm, Saturday: 9:00am - 12:00pm
Online at ticketmaster.ca or uab.ca/gbptickets

uab.ca/gbp

@BearsandPandas



INDIVIDUAL GAME DAY TICKETS

GB Hockey / GB&P Basketball GB&P Volleyball / GB Football Conference	Playoffs	P Hockey Conference & Playoffs
Adult \$16	\$16	\$16
Student \$ 9	\$16	\$16

*Under 18 or valid ID Card
(2 Adults, 2-3 Kids) Family

*Kids 5 and under are Free. * Senior Discount available at Box Office.

8 GAME FLEX PACKS

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Not available for purchase on Game Days.
Valid for regular season conference play only.

ADULT GROUP RATE

30% off regular price for organized groups of 20 or more.

NEW

ONLINE WEEKLY TICKET SPECIAL

For upcoming weekend
conference games only.

Adult \$12
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GB Hockey / GB&P Basketball /
GB&P Volleyball / GB Football

*Price includes ordering fees

Advanced sales only. Not available game days.

www.bears.ualberta.ca

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- 1 Family Night**
\$5 off Family Pack & gameday family activities
- 2 Legacy Game**
Free T-shirt for the first 300 fans
- 3 Mac'n'Cheese Night**
Free Box of Mac'n'Cheese for the first 200 fans
- 4 Rally Towel Night**
Free Rally Towel for the first 400 fans

Opinion

Opinion Editor
Josh Greschner

Email
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

Phone
780.492.5168

Twitter
@joshgreschner

Volunteer
Opinion meetings every Wednesday at 2pm in SUB 3-04

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Get to know yourself if you want to change

THE RESOLUTION YOU SET FOR YOURSELF A COUPLE DAYS BEFORE New Year's Eve is probably going to fail.

Obviously this isn't groundbreaking analysis. Multiple researches have shown that somewhere around 75 per cent of people will give up their New Year's resolution within the first couple weeks of making it. Barely 30 per cent of the people who do make resolutions will come anywhere near completing it. And even if they do, how can we know if it actually ended up being a positive change?

Similar studies show that the most common New Year's resolutions are body image, fitness, or diet related (also known as losing weight). Will getting on a diet pill or starving yourself make you less fat? Yeah, probably. Will it make you healthier? Absolutely not. There's a lot more that goes into becoming healthier than just losing weight, and a simple last-second New Year's resolution doesn't do it justice.

These resolutions don't fail because people aren't competent enough to achieve their goals, but because the culture and narrative surrounding the typical New Year's resolution is flawed. We focus too much on the negative aspects of ourselves, the debilitating flaws and crippling inadequacies we believe that we have, and we ignore the actual detailed, step-by-step process that unfolds over a long period of time that it would take to actually make a massive change in our lifestyles.

Besides, if you're using New Year's as some arbitrary starting line for which you can finally begin to actively make changes in your life, odds are you aren't very emotionally invested in doing so. What's the difference between deciding to go to the gym more in August than January? Why can't you stop drinking in April? If you're truly ready and able to commit to something, surely you won't wait until an arbitrary point in time to start doing it.

If you're looking into making a quick, poorly thought out life change right now, you were probably peer pressured into doing so. Maybe it was the glut of advertisements babbling on about "being better" and creating a "new you" as businesses aggressively shove the rhetoric that "there's no better time than New Year's to make a sweeping change" in our faces, or maybe it was one of your Facebook acquaintances posting about all the changes that they're hoping to make. Regardless, there's a very good chance that this was a spur of the moment decision that didn't encompass a tremendous amount of thought. And because of that, we set ourselves up to fail.

Long story short, there are a whole boat-load of reasons as to why New Year's resolutions are flawed and why you shouldn't bother with them. I think we all know that by now. That said, the phenomenon of "New year, new you" isn't something that we need to disregard completely.

The New Year provides us with a nice, convenient time to begin tracking and monitoring the things that we do.

Like I said, one of the biggest reasons these things tend to blow up in our faces a couple weeks in is the fact that they're unrealistic and poorly thought out. Becoming healthy, cutting out liquor or cigarettes, or being a happier and more fulfilled person are huge undertakings that demand a serious understanding of how we generally spend our time and how it makes us feel.

I mean, it's one thing to say exercising on a regular basis and eating better food will result in me being healthier (and happier by consequence), but it's another thing to understand why I eat poor food and avoid the gym in the first place.

Take this New Year as a time to start keeping track of the stuff you do. Look at when you eat food, when you wake up, when you watch TV, when you fall asleep, etc. Then think about changes you want to make, and try to fit them in.

You want to go to the gym more? Look at the slots in which you have free time, and fit it in there. Try the morning, try evening, and try late night, and log which time you liked the most. Want to eat better food? Take a look at when you eat your snacks or when you tend to get fast food. Is there a way to squeeze home packed lunches in there? Are you eating crap because you're bored? Whatever it is, track information about your tendencies so that later on down the road, when you're really ready to make a big push on a lifestyle change, you understand what works for you and what doesn't.

We aren't all the same person — buying a pair of nice running shoes isn't going to make every single one of us more likely to go to the gym like the ever-prevalent advertisements suggest. Take the time to figure yourself out, and maybe in doing so you'll stumble upon a way to improve your lifestyle: because I can assure you that the half-assed resolution you set for yourself won't.

Cam Lewis
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



IT'S ADVISABLE to choose a realistic resolution. Don't be that snake.

ADAIRE BEATTY

letters to the editor

FROM THE WEB

Many Syrians uninterested in Canada
(Re: *Due to costs, Canada shouldn't accept Syrian refugees*, by Spencer Morrison, Dec 2)

Being from that region, I talked to Many Syrians and asked them if they need to come to Canada, but they told me that they don't like to come Canada. They heard that Canada is very far and cold with huge unemployment rate (no jobs particularly in Quebec). Some said countries like Germany, France , and Holland are much better and closer to their back-home. Some said that life in Canada is not compatible with their conservative Islamic values and they scare about their kids being lost in the West. I don't understand yet why Liberal politicians including the Immigration minister John McCallum are encouraging Syrian people to leave their land, climate , and settle in different country that is thousands of miles far away from their homeland. Maybe there is a plan to make deport Syrians from Middle East?

Sami Said
VIA WEB

Fringe opinions A-Ok
(Re: *Defending property with guns isn't unreasonable*, by Cole Forster, Dec 3)

It's great that the Gateway publishes these fringe op eds that stimulate one to think about one's own beliefs. In this case, one of the author's underlying assumption is incorrect. Merely owning a gun and taking some train-

ing does not make the owner safe. For example, people protecting their property often behave as irrational actors too. Throwing a gun into the mix can often be like throwing a match on the situation – inflaming rather than extinguishing. People become surprisingly ineffective with guns when the adrenaline is flowing and things are happening fast ... even highly trained people like police officers. This is how people end up shooting their own kid, or their wife, or provoking the interloper even more. I'd like to see a followup article that gets deeper into "measured escalation", whatever that is. Maybe compare and contrast with "proportional response".

Fred Cat
VIA WEB

Equality in bike shops
(Re: *Volunteer bike shop has 'Women, trans, non-gender binary only' days, local businesses should follow suit*, by Kassidy Auld, May 17, 2015)

She had never picked up a wrench before and was changing tires better than some pro mechanics Corinn had seen? Really? I'd like to know where these "pro" mechanics learned their skills. I've been in this shop many times working on my bike and anyone who can't wrench on their own bike is usually helped by a staff member. I've also helped people (both sexes) fix their own bikes while I'm in there looking for parts. It's just so not the place where I see or expect to see sexist treatment of anyone. That goes for any bike shop. I just don't get this practice of exclusion. It would seem Corinn is grossly

overstating the benefit of a male free environment. I've worked in two bike shops. One was owned and managed by a woman. Both experiences were identical in respect to gender equality and equity in my opinion. Bike shops just aren't a hotbed of male domination. I think however, that some people allow themselves to feel threatened. That doesn't mean the other sex is being threatening. I guess the next time I spend time with my four sisters as the only brother I'll pay more attention to how threatened I feel.

PG
VIA WEB

Podcast enriches my life
(Re: *The Watch-men Episode 11: The Force Awakened (No Spoilers!)*, Dec 23)

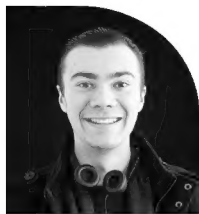
I have thought about writing a lot and then I listen to you two and think...maybe i don't know what I'm talking about....then you answer all the questions and criticisms that I am thinking about. So, you have successfully put to rest everything i was thinking about, good and bad regarding the movie. I actually think i like it better now, 4 hours later after listening to you. So, thank you.

Jen
VIA WEB

You're welcome! Really the best way to enjoy The Force Awakens is to watch the prequels first and realize nothing could possibly be worse.

Matt
VIA WEB

Taking meaningful photos, making memories in 2016



Zach Popowich
OPINION STAFF

Since I moved out last year I intermittently visit my parents to collect my old things. These are things that I'd forgotten and things that I didn't realize I would need (metal tongs are potentially one of the most versatile kitchen implements ever).

I couldn't find 10 pictures on my phone worth developing or even saving to a hard disk to show for a year's worth of memories.

Like every time I cleaned out the boxes, I became distracted — this time with shoeboxes filled with photos of my parents in the early 90s. There were candid photos at parties, group photos, pictures of thumbs, and even a pre-smartphone selfie or two. The photos were imperfect, yet the flaws told me a story about people who I never knew my parents



KEVIN SCHENK

were. If anything, the flaws in the frames added to the character of the photos.

Digging through my parents' old memories made me think about what pictures I had taken in the last year. I have a 16mp camera on a phone that can store hundreds of high definition pic-

tures on an internal memory, but I couldn't find 10 pictures on my phone worth developing or even saving to a hard disk to show for a year's worth of memories. There were selfies, and poses, pictures of dents on my car, and of a car that had parked in my spot, but nothing that I really felt that could

help my summarize a year.

My real camera gets a little more love, only when I'm on vacation, and rarely when I'm in Edmonton. I'm hesitant to take out my phone and snap pictures when the moment doesn't feel right, yet when the moment feels right I tell myself to *enjoy the moment* instead

of taking a picture.

I don't have a journal or a diary and I've never really been able to commit to that part of a daily routine. I fill in the gaps with pictures of trips and events. I find that for myself at least, pictures can at times capture a moment better than my pen can, so much so that I have to sift through my ever-expanding drop box account to find photos of my first year in university just to better remember the times (there are photos of worn out tennis shoes, a bad haircut, and girls were still a mystery). I like to think that I've swapped the tennis shoes for a better sense of self, but I need to remind myself of those previous times to appreciate the present.

If I'm going to make a New Year's resolution for this year, it's that I'm going to take the time to better keep the memories of this year. The pictures of my parents in those faded Costco envelopes were probably the closest I'll come to being able to jump back to decades and helped me to learn more about parents that I've never bothered to really talk to. Likewise, I'll take photos now to remind my future self of what I am now. I won't only make memories but I'll also record them. It's one thing to live life behind the lens, it's another thing to forgo the lens altogether.

Alberta shouldn't follow Ontario and sell beer in grocery stores



Josh Hickmore
OPINION WRITER

New Ontario legislature allows for the selling of beer in grocery stores, with similar legislation for wine also in the works. *The Toronto Star* reported on these law changes, detailing how grocery stores will be allowed to sell six packs and certain retailers would be allowed to sell twelve packs, but anything more would not be allowed on their shelves. By May 2017, 150 of grocery stores will be able to sell beer and that number can rise to a maximum of 450 of the 1,500 grocery stores province wide.

The potential issues of liquor and beer accessibility that could affect Ontario are unlikely to affect Albertans.

With this law change many are asking if Alberta should implement a similar law. If Alberta were to follow suit, the changes would ultimately serve little benefit to Albertans.

Before this legislation, the Beer Store held the de facto beer selling monopoly since 1927. The Beer Store was the only retailer throughout the province selling beer in its 448 locations. Alberta does not have monopolized liquor stores, with the Albertan government privatizing the industry in 1993. The differences between Albertan and Ontario liquor and beer sales allowed for Alberta to have many private

businesses sell all types of alcohol, rather than a single seller limited to selling beer.

Albertans have access to a plentiful amount of liquor stores throughout the province, with many grocery stores having their own liquor stores as separate nearby buildings. In an April 2014 article, *The Calgary Sun* reported that there were 1,300 retail liquor stores in the province. The potential issues of liquor and beer accessibility that could affect Ontario are unlikely to affect Albertans.

The privatizing of Alberta liquor retailers has allowed for many businesses both large and small to develop and grow. Both large corporations and the mom and pop liquor stores would be affected by a law change similar to those of Ontario, with a more significant burden placed upon these locally owned and operated shops. The sales of beer and potentially other kinds of alcohol in the future would threaten to take away customers from these local businesses and give them to bigger grocery stores.

Grocery stores in Alberta are currently able to open their own liquor and beer stores in their own parking lot. These grocery owned liquor stores are already selling a greater range of selection than Ontario grocery stores would be and ultimately serves as a reminder in the key difference between beer sales in Ontario and Alberta. While in Ontario these beer stoked shelves of a grocery store allow consumers an alternative to the Beer Store, in Alberta liquor stores are already plentiful and grocery stores have no real urge to sell beer on their shelves (especially with the better alternative of a fully stocked liquor store of their own).

Ultimately Alberta should not feel the need to follow Ontario's lead and bring beer to the shelves of grocery stores. Alcohol is already overflowing in Alberta's cup, we have no need for more.



CHRISTINA VARVIS

the marble pedestal

COMPILED BY Josh Hickmore

SUB being open 24/7

With the start of this semester I'm going to take a look back to the stress of examweek. Through the cramming and

crying, one thing helped me get through alive: SUB. The Students' Union Building being open twenty four hours a day gave me a comfortable place to sleep when a computer chair couldn't. The couches, while lumpy and short, allowed me to rest for a few hours as I took a "study break." There were enough outlets to keep my laptop alive, even when I hardly was.

It didn't matter what faculty I was in or how many exams and papers I had left, SUB was there for me. It accepted me with a warm embrace, and comforted me when nothing else could.

Now that the semester is new again, I may forget how SUB was there for me, but it will accept me back in April either way.

Thanks again!

New Year's sex column: No to fuck boys, yes to fuck men



Pia Araneta
SEX COLUMNIST

So, it's now 2016 and you've survived another year. With all the crazy shit going on — like mass shootings, people having sex on hoverboards, and watching your Facebook friends turn into full-on racists — you should give yourself a solid pat on the ass. You survived a year in a world that is somehow getting stupider and stupider with each day (refer to Donald Trump and people who still don't believe in global warming).

I think we can all agree 2015 was sub-par. We debated about absolutely everything from Starbucks cups to Caitlyn Jenner, and we also decided that we do in fact like Justin Bieber after all.

Essentially, a fuck man is someone who knows when to pull your hair but also remembers to hold the door open for you.

In regards to sex, this year was nothing special for me — I slept with boys, I slept with girls, and I slept with myself a lot. After a year of wild sexcapades, I'd like to draw attention to the one who made it all possible. You know him, actually. He's that guy that bombards all of your conversations like Ed Sheeran on every radio station.



CHRISTINA VARVIS

His constantly erect penis has a nose of its own that can smell vulnerability and the potent pheromone of daddy issues. This guy is the absolute fuck boy of 2015.

Yes, my year was upsettingly and truthfully propelled by a mass heap of fuck boys. I ran from one

to the other using the direction of my shattered moral compass. Plan B became my only plan, considering Plan A would mean all those years of going to church actually meant something to me. I mean, don't get me wrong, I'm not screaming bloody murder and vic-

timizing myself. I chose to sleep with those boys. Those boys actually had really pretty faces and sometimes above average jokes. But, there is a reason they are called fuck boys. What I'm trying to get at is that with each year that passes, we need to start growing

the fuck up. That means less and less dicking around and more and more balling up. I don't want to have sex with someone who refers to himself as the poon conqueror. I don't want to have sex with someone who texts me at 2 a.m. in broken English (I get it...whatever situation you're in is "heats" and will apparently be "heats" for all eternity). I don't want to have sex with fuck boys.

All of this applies to me as well. I tell myself everyday how much I need to get my shit together yet find myself at the end of the night covered in ranch dip and whatever it is I was eating with said ranch dip. You can all bear witness (and I do encourage you all as well — if you find that you have fallen into the same pit of sordid hell — to join me on this sad, self-covenant) to a new year promise: new year, new dick. Have sex with a fuck man.

A fuck man is someone who knows how to do their own laundry. He efficiently runs on his own schedule but still finds reasonable hours to include you in it. Essentially, a fuck man is someone who knows when to pull your hair but also remembers to hold the door open for you. I know, what a fucking dream — as I watch a hoard of fuck boys emerge towards me, blasting 2 Chainz and waving their dick pics at my face.

As this is in print, you can refer to and watch me struggle to keep this promise like all the people out there who just wasted good money on a gym membership they'll probably only use for a week. But wow. What a week to be hopeful. What a week to be alive. Happy New Year!

WHAT'S ON AT UALBERTA?

Convocation Hall:

Violinissimo II

Wieniawski, Auer, Wilhelmj & their contemporaries
Guillaume Tardif (violin) and Roger Admiral (piano)

Fri, Jan 15 @ 8 pm
Convocation Hall



Trio Voce

Haydn and Mendelssohn
Patricia Tao (piano), Jasmine Lin (violin)
& Marina Hoover (cello)

Fri, Jan 29 @ 8 pm
Convocation Hall

Winspear Centre:

50th Anniversary Music Celebrations

Department of Music's 50th anniversary
showcasing students, faculty and distinguished alumni

Sun, Jan 24
performances & displays, main foyer 2 pm
Concert @ 3 pm
Winspear Centre



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Sun, Feb 7 @ 3 pm
Winspear Centre

ualberta.ca/artshows



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Don't bother wasting your money on a fitness tracker



Kevin Schenk
ONLINE EDITOR

It's a new year, and you know what that means: resolutions to get fit in an unrealistically short amount of time.

Nielsen Media Research found that the top resolutions for 2015 were to stay fit and lose weight, and I highly doubt 2016 will be any different. It's a great goal, but many people rush into it too fast, get burnt out and end up wasting money. Since I'm one of the people who wants to get fit, I shouldn't be writing about the first two points. So let's talk about the wasting money part.

It's a common that people spend hundreds of dollars on fitness memberships in January, use them for a month, and then gradually stop going the gym. But there's a new way to spend money on fitness now: activity trackers. And unless you're at a competitive enough stage where you need to track your heart rate, buying one is a \$50 — or usually much more — waste of money.

Fitness trackers come at all price points, but the more you pay, the

more features you get. These can include tracking swimming, heart rate, GPS tracking and more. Spending more also usually gets you a more aesthetically pleasing tracker, although most of them still look like gaudy rubber straps with LED displays.

Entry level trackers are marketed towards sedentary people that don't work out. So, me. The Fitbit product pages states that their "Everyday" category products will "turn your everyday life into a path to fitness." At first this sounds great. Now I'll know exactly how many steps I take when I get up from my desk for five minutes, walk to work and go for the occasional stroll through the River Valley.

The tracker generates graphs, and shows how many calories I burned. I like numbers, too, but I have to ask: now what? My phone automatically tracks steps and makes graphs, and although they probably aren't as accurate as a dedicated fitness tracker's, they definitely don't encourage me to be more active. I barely even look at them because I don't need a chart to tell me that I spent too much time sitting down today.

Some trackers can also track sleep, but I already have an indicator for not sleeping enough, and it's called being tired. If I feel tired, I

should probably go to bed earlier the next day. Why would I need a wrist-mounted computer thing to tell me that?

The extra features also look very enticing. For only \$20 more, you'll know how many flights of stairs you climbed! Spend an extra \$40 and you can get a tracker that tracks swimming! But if you don't swim anyways, you definitely don't need a gadget to start. Instead, just like everything else they track, it's better to start doing those activities, take some classes and become decent at them first.

Look, if you're past the point of getting fit and exercise has become a hobby, then I can see why a fitness tracker would be neat. You can track your heart rate, figure out where to improve, and more. But if you're just starting out, improvement can be as simple as going for a 30-minute walk instead of surfing Reddit, or doing 20 minutes of yoga instead of watching a fifth straight episode of *Sense8* on Netflix. It's not much but it's something, and you don't need charts and graphs generated by yet another gadget to tell you that. Save your money save yourself from getting distracted by the small details. Instead, work on changing your overall habits and gradually adding exercise to your routine.



KEVIN SCHENK

When cannibalism is ok & when it's not



Jessica Watson
OPINION WRITER

We've all been there at least once in our lives, in that most desperate of situations where you have to do the unthinkable. Remember last summer: you and your friend Jeff are out backpacking through the vast volcanic heart of Iceland, adventuring your way through distant mountain ranges and remote valleys, when you happen upon a rope bridge — spindly, insecure and fraying from the elements.

Never one to back down from a challenge, you start across the bridge, slowly inching your way across the rotted planks of wood, when suddenly, your foot snaps through and you find yourself hanging on for dear life as you stare into the abyss below. Your thoughts racing, you review the worst-case scenario — you and Jeff could fall into the chasm, only to miraculously survive without any means of escape from your rocky tomb. All of a sudden, you find yourself thinking ... "Oh shit. I'm going to have to eat Jeff!"

So maybe we haven't all been there. Maybe we haven't all been faced with the possibility of having to eat our friend Jeff — maybe you don't even HAVE a friend named Jeff. But there are people in the world that have been in a hopeless situation, those who

have had to resort to the consumption of human flesh in order to survive unthinkable scenarios. This phenomenon is known as Survival Cannibalism, only one of the types of cannibalism out there. But oftentimes, when we think of cannibalism, we picture some exotic tribal ritual, when in fact, it is more common than most people know, even in Western civilizations. That's not to say that the world is full of people eating other people just because they can.

There are three major classes of cannibalism: Survival cannibalism (where you eat Jeff to survive), Endocannibalism, in which an individual consumes the flesh of a member of their own community, and Exocannibalism, or 'eating your enemy.' Now at this point, some of you may be thinking, 'oh my GOD this is disgusting, cannibalism is the WORST,' or 'you heathen monsters, return to the hellfire from which you emerged,' or even 'hmm... should I roast Jeff, or stew him?' Although most people today frown upon the idea of eating another human, the morality of cannibalism is entirely circumstantial.

Think of the Uruguayan Rugby players whose plane crashed in the Andes in 1972, retold in the 1993 movie *Alive*. Of the 45 passengers aboard the plane, only 16 survived, and they survived by eating the flesh of their deceased friends for over two months. One of the survivors, Roberto Canessa, said in an interview with Metro UK, "I found it sad, very humiliating ... I thought I was taking advantage of them." But

trapped in an icy wasteland high in the mountains, what other choice did the survivors have? Survival Cannibalism is very different though than Exocannibalism. Exocannibalism is often the result of incredible violence, when one murders a human outside of their social group or community, and consumes them.

A large part of the disgust with this form of cannibalism arises from the idea of purposely killing someone with the intention of eating them out of spite, vengeance, or an effort to gain their qualities. A well-known case is that of Jeffrey Dahmer, an American Serial murderer who, between 1978 and 1991, killed at least seventeen people and confessed to consuming several of their corpses. This is the sort of cannibalism which should be reviled, but is not to be confused with Endocannibalism, which no, does not mean getting high on bath salts and eating your best friend's face. Endocannibalism often has ritualistic ties, where members of a community will consume the flesh of the recently deceased in order to gain pieces of the spirit, and in some cultures, to allow that being to live on. A sweet sentiment, but definitely not grounds to eat grandma.

In the end, the cannibalism, unsavoury we might see it, is not always intrinsically 'evil' — let's just hope that we're never forced into a situation where it may be necessary. So to all the Jeffs out there, you're safe — I'm a vegan anyways.

New Year's shenanigans



Opinion Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

Even though we're all at different points in our university careers, the time in which we can still completely embarrass ourselves at parties or other social functions and blame our behaviour on youth is dwindling. So here are some recommendations involving greasy food, booze, family, more greasy food and animals that will guarantee future memory-making before New Year's Eve is utterly devoid of magic, like how Christmas is now.

Pia Araneta

I spent my New Year's Eve at my friend's cabin in Invermere, British Columbia. Because we're ruthless savages, the night prior combined with continued day drinking conjured a deadly hangover by 10 p.m. My day drinking consisted of us drilling holes in the ice to catch fish and shot gunning beers until I felt my soul physically leave my body. The enthusiasm projected from my friends and I in the freezing cold is something that could only be classified as Canadian, but could easily be mistaken for some kind of methamphetamine celebration.

Naturally, we began playing beer pong while "Pass that Dutch," slowly thrusting us closer to 2016. By the time we headed to town for more drinks and the countdown, my body was taken over by hunger and general confusion. My last moments of 2015 consisted of spending \$30 on mozza sticks, being asked by a stranger to motorboat her fake tits and someone salivating on my entire face. This all seemed like an accurate synopsis of the whole year which passed, hopefully fading far into the distance, back into the shadows where I've been struggling to emerge from.

Kieran Chrysler

New Year's Eve 2015 was when things got a little weird for me. I spend every New Years with my mom's whole family, so for four days I hang out with 14 relatives in a too-small house. Usually New Years Eve is pretty tame, because everyone wants to ski New Years day when the ski hill near the house is open. But this year, everyone went a little harder than usual.

By 10:30 p.m. I found myself in a conversation with my uncle (who is a doctor) about a new kind of incurable gonorrhea that is becoming more prevalent among young adults. An hour later, I had to convince my grandma to stop drinking because she was on track to fall over before the fireworks started. By the time midnight rolled along, I was screaming out "Hello" by Adele with my five cousins into a champagne bottle. It seems like pretty standard fare for New Years Eve, but I'm still baffled at the fact that my usually quiet family finally turned up after 22 years.

Jonathan Zilinski

Back on New Year's Eve 2010, I was in grade 12 at a typical teenage house party with around 100 other kids from various high schools. Aside from somebody getting bottled, people puking in every bathroom and teens getting it on in the hot tub, nothing seemed that out of the ordinary.

Until you noticed that somebody had taken a bottle of Nesquik and dumped the entire thing on a living room wall. The Nesquik dripped down onto the hardwood floor and began pooling around a heating vent. Most people are dicks in high school, but the fact that somebody was possessed to "chocolatize" an entire wall still puzzles me to this day.

Josh Greschner

I went to the casino by myself.

#3LF

three lines free

I work in an office where it sounds like men are having sex all the time

Chitter killed

3LF

Sorry Gateway.

Hi! Wanted to publish a response to an article i read a while back in the opinion section. It was in regards to Koran needing a critical assess-

ment, I'd like to provide a counter perspective.

Then email the Opinion Editor at opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

Beware of men who quote Proust and wear three piece suits.

Robert, you spend Xmastime alone because you are an asshole all of the time.

but when did i lose the right to

sleep

I've been surfing online more than 3 hours today, yet I never found any interesting article like yours. It's pretty worth enough for me. In my opinion, if all site owners and bloggers made good content as you did, the internet will be a lot more useful than ever before.

My hotline never blings.

The duality of being a sex worker and a post secondary student.

STUDIES &

Christy White* earned two thousand dollars the first time she sold sex. The guy was in his 20s and was “pretty nice.” He owned his own company and worked a lot; he was just lonely and just wanted someone to spend time with. The client had seen White’s online advertisement and texted her for a couple days, things like: ‘I want to help,’ ‘Oh, I don’t want you to do this,’ and ‘I’ll give you \$2000.’

The client sent White a location to meet him downtown. They talked for a while in his truck.

“I was super nervous,” White says. “I told him I’d never done anything like that before.”

The client took White out for dinner (Ruth’s Chris), and spent the night with her in a hotel afterwards. In the morning, they got breakfast together and parted ways. That was one year ago.

On the exterior, White’s university experience hasn’t been out of the ordinary. She’s interested in the humanities, particularly women’s studies. She dresses casually yet fashionably. She grew up in an upper-middle class family. She has to deal with the steep parking fees on campus. And she has tuition and living costs, which became a problem two years ago. Having lost her job at a bakery, White went through her savings quickly and had to come up with a solution. That was when she decided to enter into sex work.

She tried webcamming (working on-camera and interacting with clients in a chat room) at first, but that involved too much patience and too little money. She then looked into sugaring (entering into a relationship with a “sugar daddy” who gives some sort of compensation to the “sugar baby”). But the guys she met with were looking for exclusivity, which isn’t very lucrative. The only thing she ever earned from them was free lunch.

“Then I read a book about escorting,” White says. “And I thought, I can do this.”

The book was essentially a guide on how to work independently. After thorough study, White set up a website—a professional one, with a domain name and all. She advertised a little bit, and quickly found her first client, and then a second (\$700 for a two hour encounter in a hotel.) He was normal, just a little older than the first client, White says.

In Canadian federal law, specifically under Bill C-36, it’s not illegal to sell sex. But it is illegal to solicit sexual services for money, and to buy sex.

“You can’t say, ‘I’ll give you a blowjob for \$40, but you can say, ‘I’ll give you 15 minutes of my time for \$40,’” White says.

Sex work is also regulated below the federal level. The gatekeeper to sex work in Edmonton is City Bylaw, which requires workers to be licensed in body massage or escorting to work legally, which White

consensual and violent.

White’s original plan was to work as an independent escort, but the licensing process to work independently is more complicated and more expensive. Escorting is also just riskier in general, White says.

“There have been a lot of armed robberies,” she says. “It’s not that safe right now.”

She became licensed for body massage instead, and was employed quickly after answering a ad for a studio worker.

White has been working at an Edmonton body massage studio since last February. And so far she says the experience has been positive. The women she works with are all nice. The owner doesn’t allow drinking and drugs in the facility, so it’s clean. The clients that come in are decent for the most part, and you do feel sort of a bond with your regulars, White says. A fond client even took her to Mexico

come in for 20 minutes. Others are really nice, and want to talk because they’re looking for more of an emotional connection. Some are married and looking for intimacy that they no longer have with their wife. Other clients are university students themselves, White says.

“It’s a whole other world. It’s huge,” she says. “You don’t understand it till you’re in it.”

Though White’s experience has been mostly positive, she acknowledges a lot of this is due to her luck in working in a good studio. Others, like Lindsey Urquhart*, were less lucky. Urquhart started sex work ten years ago when there wasn’t an orientation course to get a licence, all a person had to do was pay the fee. She entered the industry with thousands of dollars in debt and minimal background information.

“How do I transition from ‘Hi, my name is Lindsey’ to, I dunno, sucking this guy’s dick?” she’d ask her boss.

“Figure it out,” was the reply.

The women Urquhart worked with didn’t like the new girl “cutting their grass,” and would give bedroom advice that would anger clients and put her own safety and health at risk. There is no “sisterhood” in sex work, she says.

“They would set me up to fail,” Urquhart says. “I’d do things wrong. Unsafe things. Really bad things that I live with now for the rest of my life.”

Urquhart ended up working out of debt, creating her own studio and earning a diploma from Grant MacEwan University. After exiting the industry employers didn’t want to hire her despite being self-employed and educated. It took around four months and 40 resumes to find a job.

“Society doesn’t care if you’ve sold your body one time, or a million times, you are forever coined a whore or a prostitute,” she says. “You can’t shake that.”

Urquhart feels a lot more pessimistic

“You can’t say, ‘I’ll give you a blowjob for \$40,’ but you can say, ‘I’ll give you 15 minutes of my time for \$40.’”

did shortly after seeing her second client. Body massage and escorting are differentiated by location: the former is done in a studio that contracts sex workers, the latter in a location chosen by the client.

Licensing isn’t too complicated: the bulk of it is a three-hour course by City Bylaw, which orients workers to local laws and support services. The course also teaches workers a little bit of self defence, and things like having confidence in the bedroom, which is important for safety reasons—a dominant attitude discourages clients from trying anything non-

for Fall reading week. White likes him, but more in a friendship kind of way, she says.

“He’s an engineer,” she says. “He’s a super nice guy. But he started to really like me, a lot. But we’re at different points in our lives and nothing more can happen.”

As for those who visit White in the parlour, she says that they vary a lot in experience and reasons for seeing her. Some clients are good at sex, but a lot don’t know what they’re doing. Some guys just want to “fuck and chuck,” they’re cheap, they don’t want to talk, and usually just

SEX WORK

and untrusting of people now, even she's been out for a few years.

"Some people say they like it, but I have yet to meet a girl that has left the business and has said 'I liked it,'" Urquhart says. "In the moment, I would have said, yeah I like this job. Because if I had said anything different I would have opened up that armour ... and all of that pain, those feelings I've repressed just to function in my day would have come through."

The advice she gives to people still

massage. When she first started there she made \$14,000 in a month, back before oil prices tanked. Now, White usually makes between \$6000 and \$8000 a month, working about 20 hours a week.

"Honestly I'd feel more exploited working at McDonald's for \$10 an hour than I do sleeping with strangers," she says.

Work atmospheres vary between studios in Edmonton, but White's is pretty tame. The main problems that have come up have involved workers undercutting and

says. "Unfortunately there's such a stigma in society that people can't look past it."

White doesn't get nervous around clients like she did a year ago. She's seen around 250 clients to date, and doesn't feel like she's going to quit anytime soon. Most people she's told about her work respond without judgement, and sometimes with curiosity. White is on the track to getting a degree and aims to start grad school once she graduates from the U of A.

"I have my shit together," she says.

**The names have been changed at the request of the interviewees.*

"Nobody wants to die with heels on 50 years later with nothing on a resume."

inside the industry is to keep at least one other part-time job, to make sure they're gaining other skills as well. Sex work can be a viable option to get somewhere, but it shouldn't be the only thing a person does, she says.

"Nobody wants to die with their heels on 50 years later with nothing on a resume," she says.

White doesn't feel like her situation has forced her into sex work, but recognizes many aren't as fortunate. There are some "happy hookers," but there are also many underage girls and trafficked women that end up on backpage.com as well, she says.

"My stance (on prostitution) is conflicted. I am self-actualized, I choose this," White says "But I would say that 90 per cent of people (in the industry) are not like me."

White makes a comfortable living, work fits well into her university schedule, and she can take time off whenever she wants. That's the primary advantage of body

not using condoms with clients. Going bareback pays more, but problems arise in a studio when one worker could potentially be spreading infection to clients and other workers, White said.

"I don't (offer bare service)," White says. "These guys are asking you for that, they're probably married. If you're doing it with one person you're doing it with everybody. They'll pay you more, but is it really worth your health?"

White says she feels safe at work, as studios are set up in such a way that "the guys can't get away with much." A security camera watches the entrance, and there's always someone else in the building (it's illegal to work alone in an Edmonton studio).

Sex work is controversial: people will feel White is exploited in her work, but she doesn't feel that. She doesn't feel particularly empowered by her job either, acknowledging that it's in a gendered industry with a power gap, but she's fine with it. White's work is a stepping stone.

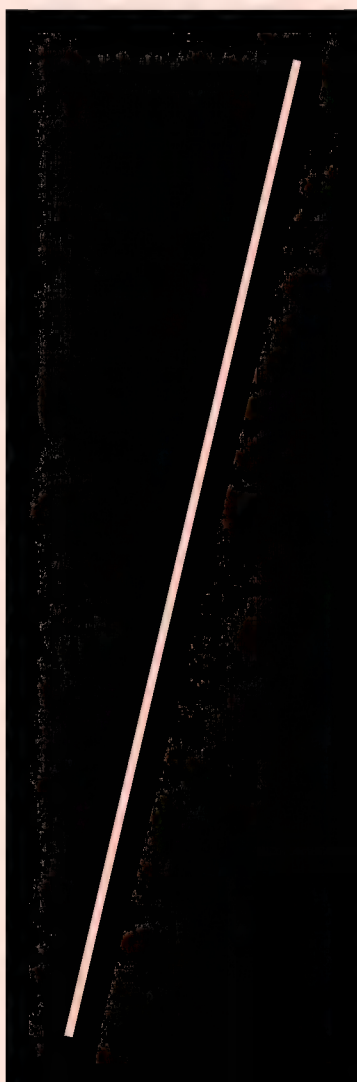
"I see it as I go to work and I make money. That's all there is to it," White

FACTS

It's illegal for studio owners to employ workers. Instead, workers are thought of as a type of contractor, "renting" the space of the studio to perform their services. Workers get to set their own prices, but are supposed to stay within pricing guidelines.

A shift looks like this: the client arrives at the studio's door, which is locked for safety reasons. The workers take turns opening the door and bringing in the client. Whoever has opened the door talks to the client, asks whether they want to meet the others who are working. The client chooses which worker they want to see. The client pays and enters one of the studio's bedrooms with the worker. Each bedroom has a shower attached. Clients must shower at the start of the session.

The industry uses code words for various acts. Anal sex is "Greek." Bareback blowjob is "BBBBJ" which is fairly common to advertise (but very stupid to do, White says.)



Arts & Culture

A & C Editor
Jonathan Zilinski

Phone
780.492.5168

Email
arts@gateway.ualberta.ca

Twitter
@jonneedstwitter

Volunteer

Arts meetings every Wednesday at 4pm in SUB 3-04

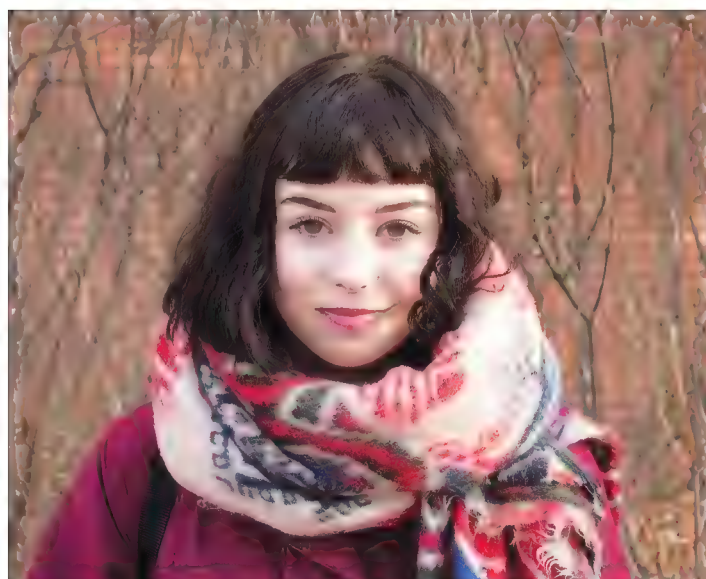
fashion streeters

COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY Christina Varvis



GATEWAY: Describe your outfit:

JESKE: I wear these Dr. Marten boots almost everyday; they're really warm. The scarf is just from Zara. It's super warm [and] I really like the pattern. I try to wear more colours now cause lately I haven't worn any. I usually gravitate towards all black. Also, my coat is from Value Village. I do a lot of shopping [there].



SUPPLIED

Stevie Raikou brings creative blend of hip-hop vibes and community ties

Sam Podgurny
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Welcome to Crestwood — a cozy, west Edmonton neighborhood situated in and around the 142 Street and 95 Avenue area. This well-established community offers picturesque views of our city's beautiful river valley, is home to the annual Christmas-decoration spectacle Candy Cane Lane and offers plenty of great amenities for residents and visitors alike, from schools, to cafés and bakeries, to a hockey arena, tennis courts and even a curling club. All in all, the Crestwood community is the perfect spot if you're looking to settle down, relax on a peaceful stroll, or grab a quick brunch and coffee.

But what if you're not interested in Sunday brunch? What if you're not looking to settle down? What if, instead, you are interested in high energy tunes, raucous hall parties, cheap beer and hip-hop music? Well, if you were to ask local rapper Stevie Raikou where you might find these things, he'd happily point you right back in the direction of Crestwood.

"There is something inherently goofy about being a rap group from Crestwood", the twenty year old Raikou says, "you know, I'm serious about it but I don't want to take myself too seriously."

Stevie Raikou, or Stephen Bailey-Heelan according to his birth certificate, is an emerging Edmonton rap artist who is proudly based out of the aforementioned Crestwood area. Since adopting the name of the legendary, electric Pokémon Raikou as his hip-hop pseudonym, this young word-smith along with a collective of other like-minded Crestwood artists, have been creating and releasing feel-good hip-hop tracks out of their quaint, west Edmonton 'hood for a little over two years.

At its inception, the alter-ego simply provided the music/Pokémon enthusiast with a way to kick back with friends and mess with the idea of making rap songs but speaking with him now, it's clear this hip-hop hobby is no longer just for laughs.

"It started as joke raps, me and my

friends just fucking around. I had all these records I had done that I was too embarrassed to show anyone but deep down I wanted to do it seriously," Raikou says.

With a strong passion for music driving Raikou, he has managed to turn a garage-band act into one that's gone on to release a fully realized LP, this year's *Da Golden Retriever Chroniclez*, perform at numerous live events and even coordinate a multi-act, block-party style concert at the Crestwood Community League.

"Me and my friends are genuinely passionate about hip-hop and music," he says, commenting on his drive to take things to the next level, "and we're just doing it in our own way."

Raikou describes the fine line he has tried to walk when entering into a scene that comes with its share of genre-specific stereotypes and expectations.

"We're not trying to be anything we're not, for me it's just about being honest, shooting our videos where we actually hang out, doing shows where we hang out, you know, actually having it be what it is."

Raikou's sociology studies at the University of Alberta perhaps contribute to his honest view on where he sees his place in hip-hop culture.

“Even though my music is rap music, I don't try to have eight gold chains in the video ...”

STEVIE RAIKOU, RAPPER

"Appropriation has been in the news so much this year and for good reason. [Hip-hop] has a culture where if you're not from a certain demographic you have to tread lightly and make sure you respect it." He continues, "even though my music is rap music, I don't try to have eight gold chains in the video or see how many of my black friends I can call to come to the next video shoot."

This 'come as you are' attitude seems to contribute to a positive environment,

encouraging creativity and creating a strong sense of community.

"I just think its cooler doing things with a community vibe, as a collective. On one level, there's me and maybe four or five guys who form a concise group and are serious about the project and then there there's a whole other group who comes out to shows, are extras in the music videos, and help when they need to help."

Of those four or five core collaborators, none are more important to Raikou the act or Stephen the person, than Dapper Dan (a.k.a Mike Mickelson).

"[Dan] is my partner in crime," he says of his long-time friend. "He produces a lot of my beats and is the first guy I call for advice. He's super talented, plays guitar and drums and it helps a lot to have a multi-instrument guy for recording and shows."

From his dedication and will to host neighbourhood focused events, to his inclusion of old friends in his music, Raikou's community-centric attitude fits perfectly into the idea of him being a rapper that doesn't want to keep his experiences to himself but rather share them with anyone and everyone who is open to them.

"For me, Stevie Raikou is bigger than just hip-hop, with our block party, we wanted to make it an Edmonton music thing, so that's what we did, like let's get together five really good local acts, not all of them hip-hop, and put them on a stage together. I think there has to be more of that, people going outside of their boundaries and reaching out to other artists rather than just playing the same show, with the same crowd and same acts within their same little niche."

For Stevie Raikou and his crew of Crestwood collaborators, the music may be important but it's abundantly clear that it's all about the community too.

You can download Stevie's album, *Da Golden Retriever Chroniclez*, free at www.theneighborhood.ca and can catch him and his band live at "The People Present: A Parkview Party" on January 16 at the Parkview Community League.



CHRISTINA VARVIS



YUETONG LI

Last minute activities before classes take over your life

Rachael Phillips

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

We all know the dark depression that comes with ending winter break and beginning classes again: it's back to waking up with an alarm, cutting back your cookie intake, and not drinking beer before noon (unless you still do that during the semester, which is cool too).

It's easy to find yourself feeling regretful that you didn't do more over the holiday — in fact, if you're like most, you probably accomplished nothing at all. Luckily, this first week back at school is usually the easiest, with the least number of assignments and readings due as we

get back into the swing of things. If you want to take advantage of this waning freedom, this coming weekend is the time to do it.

Whether you only have time for a day-trip or want to make a weekend out of it, Alberta offers tons of cool getaways and a ton of fun activities that you can do within a short time restriction. Take advantage of the snowy winter season and our city's location and you can have yourself a pretty great time — just don't forget your long-johns.

If you only have an afternoon or evening free, don't worry: there's still lots to do in Edmonton. The city's newly opened ice castle in Hawrelak Park is one must-see

attraction, with an entrance fee of \$15.95 on weekends. For a fun few hours, explore the ice castle, and then check out the new freeway in Victoria Park, a 400 metre figure-eight ice trail for skating on, or simply opt for some laps on the ice- skating ring that is nearby. This easily fills-up an afternoon or evening — make sure to bring a thermos of hot chocolate.

“Leave after class on Friday and spend as much time as possible exploring the mountain town and its surroundings”

If you have an entire day, plan a day-trip out to Elk Island National Park. Located about 40 minutes out

of the city, the park is the perfect place to hang out in nature and juex-plore for the day. Before leaving the city, rent a pair of cross-country skis or snowshoes — the park has a ton of trails to explore. Take a camera in case you run into some elk or bison. Finish the day off with a campfire at one of the fire rings in the park, and keep your eye out for the northern lights if it's late enough.

If you have the whole weekend to do something, plan a trip to Jasper National Park. It's easy to

take a train or drive from Edmonton to the town site of Jasper and depending on your mode of transport, you can get there in three to five hours. Leave after class on Friday and spend as much time as possible exploring the mountain town and its surroundings. To save money, stay in one of the many hostels around Jasper.

There's a lot to do in the mountains, so you'll have to pick a couple things. Popular winter activities here include dogsledding, ice walks and climbing, and skiing. Jasper is also the world's second-largest dark-sky preserve, so don't forget to look up at night for an amazing experience.



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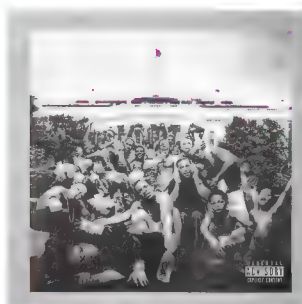
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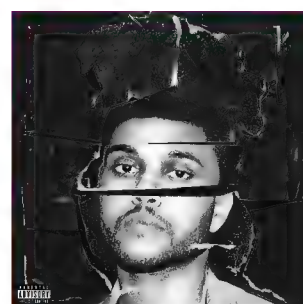
To Pimp A Butterfly
by: Kendrick Lamar

Kendrick Lamar achieved the impossible in 2015 by delivering a follow-up to his now-classic *Good Kid, m.A.A.d City* that dwarfed its predecessor completely. *To Pimp A Butterfly* is colossal, a living document of the modern Black experience. With an all-star cast of collaborators (Thundercat, Kamasi Washington), Lamar effortlessly fuses nearly 50 years of African-American music as he guides the listener through a dense anthology of narratives. His songs are short stories, tackling gender politics "For Free?", systematic racism "Institutionalized", and even himself "u". Throughout, he exhibits an immense empathy, and his consistent devotion to humanity elevates the album from potentially preachy to an outright revelation. *To Pimp A Butterfly* is a vital accomplishment, the benchmark that albums will be measured against for years to come. — Stefan Makowski



Made in the A.M.
by: One Direction

The boys are back in town with a sound stronger than ever as they have discovered the music that they have been working towards as a band. With songs that have the classic One Direction sound and other new styles as they play and discover the direction they want to move towards as their sound matures from boy band pop to something more adult contemporary. Regardless, the lyrics will still steal hearts and cause people to think of simpler times and more carefree memories. *Made in the A.M.* channels a higher level of accessibility and easy listening that will translate to the artists boy band stigma all but dissolving. One Direction is becoming harder and harder to hate, as they continue to offer fun and timeless albums. It's heartbreaking that Directioners will have to patiently wait for the hiatus to be over and to see what the boys will have in store when they return. — Eryn Pinksen



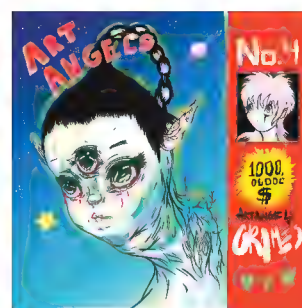
Beauty Behind The Madness
by: The Weeknd

Needless to say, the Weeknd was definitely on everyone's music radar in 2015. After bursting on the music scene with his mixtapes and first studio album *Kiss Land*, anyone in the music industry knew he was there to stay. With his contemporary funk and edgy R&B meets emotional rap, the young artist blew the world away with his second full length album, debuting first on the Billboard 200 charts. Three singles from the album also flooded the top of the charts and if you haven't been belting "I can't feel my face!" in every space, you must have been living under a rock. If this album was any indication, I have no doubt that the Weeknd will continue to smash with hit after hit in the future. Plus, the dude is Canadian and has sick hair, so really, it's hard not to have mad respect and love for the singer new album. — Raylene Lung



Another Eternity
by: Purity Ring

In their sophomore album *Another Eternity*, Megan James and Corin Roddick attempted to bring the fire and continue the glow of their praised debut 2012's *Shrines*. Following their debut, the pair was applauded for their unique, fluid soundscapes, trap-influenced beats and clean, flowery vocals from James. *Another Eternity* continued to evolve their sound, creating a dynamic album that's more refined and polished, yet their quality celebrated sound was still intact and nuanced, by using similar tracks and percussions from their debut. Roddick's mixes and samples are clean and thoughtful and Megan does an admirable job of pushing her vocals; she lengthens the depth and breadth of her range and power. Purity Ring continues to deliver both quality sound and poetic narrative. — Alyssa Demers



Art Angels
by: Grimes

After moving to a remote location in Squamish, scrapping an entire album and then relocating to L.A., Grimes finally came out of a three year hiatus with the pop masterpiece *Art Angels*. With a significant style break from her previous work, Grimes redesigned her sounds to a much poppier, high energy sound, which parts of the internet didn't appreciate as much as her ethereal vibes of the past. But through the style change, Grimes maintained her high production standards, keeping with her rule to craft every instrumental piece on the album. The only place where she brought in help was on the single "Scream," where Taiwanese rapper Aristophanes gave an even creepier vibe to an already creepy track. As an album, it stood as an excellent demonstrator of the highbrow nature pop music can take. — Kieran Chryslor



Giest
by: Gang Signs

Gloomy electronic isn't anything new, however Vancouver three-piece Gang Signs are finding a way to present a fresh take on it. Their dark bass driven tracks and echoing guitar are reminiscent of The xx. Peter Ricq's voice moves soothingly through each song, impressively resembling the baritone of Tom Smith from Editors. It makes for an interesting dynamic as Ricq's vocals add a much needed layer of optimism to an otherwise haunting album. Though Gang Signs have their parallels, the pieces work remarkably well together as their debut LP *Giest* flashes moments of brilliance. It says a lot that songs like "Mate" and "Antitode" wouldn't sound out of place on an xx record. With a few more steps forward and a bit of luck Gang Signs could easily be playing at a major festival near you. This is definitely a project to keep an eye on. — Jonathan Zilinski

THE 15 BEST ALBUMS FROM 2015



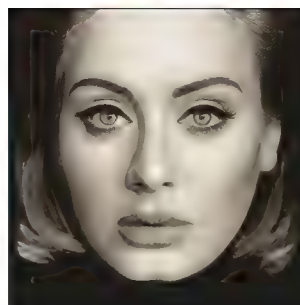
Frozen Niagara Falls
by: Prurient

Prurient's double-disc *Frozen Niagara Falls* proved to be one of the most harrowing and bone-chilling listening experiences of the year. Here, Dominick Fernow immerses himself in a wave of icy electronics, pummeling rhythms, and agonizing screams, emerging barely intact on the other side. However, the album proves deceptively complex. Rather than simply venting frustrations, *Frozen Niagara Falls* acts as a heady meditation on themes of urban and romantic decay, depression, melancholy, and hope. The result is perhaps some of the most emotionally evocative noise music ever committed to tape. Fernow's ability to push the listener to tears with little more than waves of harsh noise is awe-inspiring, and makes *Frozen Niagara Falls* a haunting epic, more than worth the time and attention it demands. — Stefan Makowski



Carrie and Lowell
by: Sufjan Stevens

Indie singer/songwriter Sufjan Stevens upholds his original sound in 12th studio album *Carrie and Lowell*, he returns to a nostalgic, subdued musicality, similar to earlier albums *Seven Swans* and *Michigan*. Steven's constructed this album in wake of his mother's death due to stomach cancer. He explores complex topics such as childhood, his tumultuous relationship with mother Carrie and his stepfather Lowell's significance in his life. Riddled with mental illness, loneliness and searching, Steven's creates a beautiful, melancholy narrative about his life. Steven's effortlessly weaves his personal, raw narrative into his music; although this is a return to a sound we have once heard, it feels like we are listening to Sufjan for the first time again. — Alyssa Demers



25
by: Adele

After five years of no music that really stirred the emotional pot, Adele finally came back in 2015 with an album to teach the mere mortals how to feel again. And not only did she continue with her trademark heartbreak anthems, but she brought in some lighter moments to remind listeners that she can provide more than the most tragic tracks on the planet. Instead of just straight tears, she weaves in tones of nostalgia to bring an unexplored piece into the emotional rollercoaster that is 25. Gone are the days of mere 21 year-old-feelings; Adele is 25 (actually 27 now), so she knows real feelings, like not knowing if anything will be like it was "When We Were Young" again. Yes, she's really evolved in the four years since 21, and our emotions will never be the same. — Kieran Chryslar



Half Free
by: U.S. Girls

Toronto-based expat Meg Remy's thesis statement is laid bare in the title of her latest album, *Half Free*. The socially charged record asserts that women are still burdened by systematic oppression, and proves it with a vivid collection of character portraits that marry the personal and political to wonderful effect. While the lyrics are conceptually dense, the songwriting makes for a sublime pop experience. Songs about patriarchy and consent have no right to be so catchy, especially on *Damn That Valley*, arguably the best war song in decades. However, Remy's hazy and anachronistic production lends these stories a profound universality. More than any other album this year, *Half Free* seemed to capture the essence of what it meant to be a woman in 2015. — Stefan Makowski



Apex Predator - Easy Meat
by: Napalm Death

Napalm Death were innovators in the 80s, but now they're innovators by combining genres rather than speeding one up to create their own. Most of *Apex* is played in that difficult-to-define space between grind and death metal, replete with blast beats, minor key runs and slow gurgling bass licks to reorient the band after playing at blistering speeds. "How the Years Condemn" is as close to standard rock as this form of metal can be with its pace, repetitive sections and catchy chorus; "Beyond the Pale" is d-beat; "Dear Slum Landlord" steals from early Swans; "Hierarchies" features a wailing Slayer-like solo. Along with black metal riffing, Oi! passages, and unpredictable time signatures, *Apex* proves that Napalm Death continues to thrive at the forefront at the extreme metal by turning genres on themselves. It brings to mind hip-hop's tendency to reassemble. — Josh Greschner



I Love You Honeybear
by: Father John Misty

Josh Tillman made a name for himself in the folk music landscape as the touring drummer for Fleet Foxes and as a solo artist, both under J. Tillman and his current moniker, Father John Misty. But it wasn't until 2015 that he crafted an album so deliriously perfect that the angels sung. *I Love You Honeybear* is flawless in its deconstruction of modern love, from the one night stand, to patriotism, to the absolute adoration of his wife. While the album is exploring these different types of love, Tillman's now-trademark cynicism and skepticism drips off every track. Even when completely enamoured, the tracks all still maintain a feeling of looming dread about the world, and what is more true to the current condition than that. — Kieran Chryslar



Sremmlife
by: Rae Sremmurd

Out of every rap or hip-hop album released in 2015 nothing bangs like *Sremmlife*. You'd be hard pressed to find even the most highbrow rap fans that don't know the chorus' to "No Type" or "No Flex Zone". Swae Lee and Slim Jimmy won't lyrically blow anyone away, but it's difficult to reproduce their style and energetic youthfulness they display on this album. *Sremmlife* is fun, care-free and doesn't give a shit about what anyone else thinks. Few have experienced the kind of life changing success that Sremmurd has, from playing basements in 2013 to playing music festivals in 2015. From working Mcjobs in their hometown of Tupelo Mississippi, to supporting Nicki Minaj's *Pinkprint* tour and having Minaj herself refer to the duo as "iconic." — Jonathan Zilinski



Wilder Mind
by: Mumford and Sons

Although many complained that their new album lacked in sufficient banjo chords and folk-y vibes, the rock band has not disappointed with their fresh sound. The heavier guitar is just what they needed to advance their always poetic lyrics. The music may have changed but the band remained determined, cranking out their best singles yet. The entire album plays like a sad yet relatable love story, and regardless of the absence of bluegrass tones, the transformation payed off. Contrary to popular opinion, this record is set to be the band's most successful album yet. "Little Lion Man" will always be a classic jam, but new songs like "Believe" and "The Wolf" thrived in their lush, alt-rock environment. Goodbye All-American tunes, hello drum-intense tracks. Mumford has definitely pushed the limits in terms of comfort zones for both the band and the opinionated audience. — Raylene Lung



Thrill of the Arts
by: Vulpeck

Vulpeck's first full-length *Thrill of the Arts* is one of the most underrated pop albums of the year. Tunes with tight baselines, just enough saxophone solos and sultry vocals are highlights throughout the Michigan trios album. Production and it's roots in funk music paired with nonsensical lyrics give *Thrill of the Arts* it's character. Similar to Ohio players and Bootsy Collins, Vulpeck's instrumentation stands above and beyond the majority of pop albums released in 2015. *Thrill of the Arts* stands as a testament of what's possible when studio musicians begin focusing on creating their own music instead of creating for others. This shift has been proven with producers and artists like Thundercat, Kanye West, and Pharrell Williams finding success behind instrumentals and on vocal tracks. — Oumar Salifou



Bonus: Worst album of the year
The Gold Album: 18th Dynasty
by: Tyga

It was a race to the finish line for the worst album of the year. 2015 saw Miley Cyrus shove the avant garde flop *Miley Cyrus & Her Dead Pets* down our throats. (Seriously Wayne Coyne, why are you encouraging this shit?) Coldplay encouraged another album of the same shit they've been doing for the last 20 years and the obscure Filipino alt rock band Sandwich released the most boring album of the year with *Debris*. But the album that takes the cake this year? Tyga's *The Gold Album* 18th Dynasty. Tyga raps on the album opener "Spitfire," "I'm pops to your daughter's daughter." We get it Tyga, you like underage girls, how is this something to brag about on record? And that's just only one example on this atrocity of a album. For fuck sakes, Kanye West is an executive producer on this, you should know better Kanye. — Jonathan Zilinski

Sports

Sports Editor
Zack Borutski

Email
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca

Phone
780.492.5168

Twitter
@zachsprettycool

Volunteer

Sports meetings every Wednesday at 3pm in SUB 3-04

Bears volleyball rings in New Year with CAN-AM Challenge

Mitch Sorensen

STAFF REPORTER • @SONOFAMITCHH

While conference play doesn't start until this upcoming weekend, the Bears volleyball team faced a stiff test in the form of the Long Beach State 49ers at the year ending CAN-AM doubleheader challenge.

With no team in Canada having an answer for the Bears' high-powered offence, the 49ers posed a more significant challenge. Ranked fourth in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in a pre-season coaches poll, the 49ers boast All-American senior middle Taylor Gregory, as well as TJ DeFalco, the youngest player ever named to the United States World League Preliminary Roster.

For Bears associate coach Brock Davidiuk, these games were a good way to prepare the Bears for a tough second half schedule.

"We wanted to give the guys a push into the second semester," Davidiuk said, "before going into the grueling back half of the season."

That push was apparent from the outset, and in the Dec. 30th matchup, the 49ers managed to grind out a hard-fought 3-2 win. DeFalco and fellow freshman Kyle Ensing combined for 44 of the 49ers 65 kills. Though it was a back-and-forth battle, the .433 kill percentage of Long Beach State was too much for the Bears.

The Sunday night rematch saw Long Beach effectively shut down both Ryley Barnes and Ryan Nickifor, the Bears top two offensive weapons, despite error-ridden play on both sides of the net. On the back of strong attacking from middles Taylor Arnett and John



STAYING FRESH The CAN-AM Classic helped Bears volleyball prepare for a tough second half.

RUILIN FU

Goranson, the Bears refocused in the third with LBSU up 2-0. After a marathon third, the Bears fell 33-35 and lost the match 3-0.

Despite the loss, Davidiuk kept

a positive outlook on his team's performance in the second game.

"The guys really turned things around mid set," Davidiuk said, "which is what we want to see when

they're pushed."

After winning both the Canada West and CIS Championships in the 2014-15 season, the Golden Bears Volleyball team have consolidated

themselves as one of the most consistently competitive teams in Canada West.

A 12-0 first half of the season was capped with a strong showing against the Brandon University Bobcats, with two consecutive straight sets victories. Compounding their undefeated match record is a nearly spotless set record, where the Bears have recorded 36 sets won and only two sets lost.

The Bears lead Canada in several key offensive categories, including team kill percentage, and team assists per set. However, the best illustration of the Bears' dominance is in earned points per set, where their 19.1 point average is 1.4 points ahead of the next best team.

These excellent team numbers are due in large part to banner seasons for Ryley Barnes and Ryan Nickifor. A fifth-year outside hitter, Barnes leads the CIS in kills per set with 4.45, as well as kill percentage, with .421. Nickifor, a fourth-year right side, also ranks in the CIS Top 10 in the same categories. These efforts are quarterbacked by setter Brett Walsh, setting a torrid pace with 12.55 assists per set.

With a tough January schedule with series' against several top teams, Davidiuk said he looked at the exhibitions as preparation for tough matches against Trinity Western and UBC. Despite the impact on his team, Davidiuk pointed to the series as a great event for the entire volleyball community.

"I think this is a great event that (head coach) Terry (Danyluk) has put together, and hopefully it continues to grow volleyball in Edmonton."

Volley Pandas stay sharp over break competing in New Years Classic

Mitch Sorensen

STAFF REPORTER • @SONOFAMITCHH

Though the Pandas volleyball team hasn't returned to conference play for the second half of the season, they still stayed active over the break, hosting the New Years classic tournament this past weekend.

The tournament featured the University of Calgary Dinos, Saskatchewan Huskies, Montreal Carabins, Regina Cougars, and NIFS Kanoya, a university team from Japan.

Though they were dominant in straight-sets victories over the Dinos and Carabins, the Pandas were in tough against a disciplined Kanoya team. Eventually, the U of A squad fell 3-1 to the Japanese squad.

Despite the loss, head coach Laurie Eisler said she was happy with the way her team showed consistent improvement throughout the tournament.

"We become completely dull over the break," Eisler said. "But by the end of the weekend, we're playing better than we did before the time off."

According to Eisler, the exchange program with Japan has been in place for about 30 years, and feels very fortunate that her team has the opportunity to play with and learn from the Japanese team.

"You can't help but get better every time you play against them (NIFS Kanoya), as long as you don't quit," Eisler said. "The level is so high, it exposes a lot of the weaknesses in our game, but you tend to learn a lot by osmosis."

"We become completely dull over the break, but by the end of the weekend, we're playing better than we did before the time off."

Laurie Eisler
PANDAS VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

After a banner first half, the Pandas are riding a wave of momentum into the back half of the season.

With a 12-0 record in the first half of the season, the Pandas are ranked first overall in CIS and second in Canada West. With a 36-5 set record, they dominated the competition in the highly competitive Canada West division.

With a solid .233 team kill percentage, and a kills-per-set figure that's second best in Canada West, the Pandas are a dangerous offensive team. This being said, there are no real holes in the game of Eisler's squad. Strong on both

the defensive side of the ball as well as on the block, the Pandas bring a well-rounded team to the floor every match.

Led by fourth-year outside Meg Casault and her 4.68 kills per set, the Pandas are rounded out with several other key position players. Fifth-year libero Jessie Niles recently took sole possession of the All-Time Pandas digs leader, and leads Canada West in digs per set. Third-year setter Mariah Walsh leads CIS with 10.76 assists per set, helping the Pandas distribute the ball effectively on offence.

With a tough schedule ahead of them, Eisler said she feels confident in where her team is coming out of the break. Despite this, she pointed out the importance of maintaining consistency in the rest of the regular season.

"We have to take the next matches one at a time," Eisler said, "on paper, they're no bigger than the matches we had in the fall."

Next week's matchup with the Trinity Western University Spartans is, for Eisler, not a rematch of last year's CIS and Canada West finals.

"The teams look very different than they did last year," Eisler said, "it's important to keep all that in perspective. We have to have the long term vision of the playoffs in mind."



RUILIN FU



READY FOR 2016 The Pandas are looking to maintain their undefeated record.

RUILIN FU

3up3down

The first half of the NHL season

Christian Pagnani
SPORTS STAFF • @CHRISPAGNANI

THREE UP

The Florida Panthers: To almost everyone's surprise, the Florida Panthers are at the top of the Atlantic Division standings, ahead of the likes of Montréal and Tampa Bay. The Panthers' success is even more surprising considering 43-year-old Jaromir Jagr is their leading scorer. Jagr, combined with Jonathan Huberdeau and Aleksander Barkov, has been a part of the one the most surprisingly dominant lines in the NHL so far this year. Add that to Roberto Luongo's Vezina-like play and their position in the standing starts to make a little more sense.

Rookies: After last season featured the impressive debuts of Johnny Gaudreau, Phillip Forsberg, and Aaron Ekblad, this year might have and one of the most potent rookie classes in recent years. Most people expected Connor McDavid and Jack Eichel to be among the most talked about rookies, but a slow start from Eichel and an injury to McDavid have paved the way for Artemi Panarin, Max Domi, and Dylan Larkin to garner attention. Panarin

leads all rookies in points, racking up 34 in 39 games, while Larkin sits tied for second in the league with a +21 rating.

Patrick Kane: Patrick Kane is on pace to set a new career high in points with his current 117-point pace. His play is on another level right now, as he casually put up a 26-game point steak that ended in December and continues to lead the league in scoring. Kane's career year is much needed as last year's leading scorer, Jamie Benn, only tallied 87 points, leading to questions about the decline in scoring and if the age of the 100-point player is gone.

THREE DOWN

The Tampa Bay Lightning: Unlike their southern counterparts, the Tampa Bay Lightning currently sit outside of a playoff spot after making the Stanley Cup finals last season. Also, all eyes are on Steven Stamkos' contract situation as he continues to favourite tweets about him and his hometown team in Toronto with no contract extension in place and the trade-deadline looming ahead. Losing a player like Stamkos would be devastating, but add that to Jonathan Drouin

requesting a trade and there are serious question marks about the Lightning.

The Pacific Division: The Pacific division is not what is used to be. The only sure-fire playoff team as of now is the Los Angeles Kings, meanwhile the rest of the division fights it out while being just as close to the making the playoffs as they are to being dead-last in the league. Many predicted teams like Anaheim to be in the finals, or San Jose to at least make the playoffs, but the Ducks are only two points ahead of the Edmonton Oilers. There is little doubt the Pacific is the worst division in the NHL, especially when the Vancouver Canucks currently occupy third place despite having the second most losses out of any team in the NHL.

Sidney Crosby: The most prominent face in hockey is on a 63-point pace, raising questions about his decline and if we'll ever see the same dominant Sidney Crosby that put up 100-point seasons in the past. Last season was the worst statistical season of Crosby's career, and he was still over a point-per-game. This season, his slump couldn't come at a worse time as the Pittsburgh Penguins are in tough to make the playoffs in a strong Metropolitan Division.

The MLB offseason: what we've learned so far

Zach Borutski
SPORTS EDITOR • @ZACHSPRETTYCOOL

The Arizona Diamondbacks are tired of being mediocre: Not many people expected the Diamondbacks to make the sort of splash they did this offseason, but here we are, at the beginning of January and they've managed to not only sign the most coveted pitcher of the offseason in Zack Grienke, but also pry Shelby Miller, a solid starter, away from the Braves.

The D-Backs now enter the 2016 season with a formidable one-two punch at the top of the rotation to go along with young offensive stars A.J. Pollock and Paul Goldschmidt. They sacrificed a lot to obtain this talent however: Grienke received the richest per-year contract in MLB history (\$34.3 million over six years) to play in the desert, and Miller was obtained for above-average starting outfielder Ender Inciarte, 2015 first overall pick Dansby Swanson, and another top prospect in Aaron Blair. It's a steep price to pay, but the Diamondbacks are hoping that Miller and Grienke, along with their young offensive stars, will lead them back to the playoffs for the first time since 2011.

Ross Atkins and Alex Anthopoulos are not the same person: If Toronto Blue Jays fans were expecting an offseason similar to that of the 2015 trade deadline, they were in for an unpleasant shock. So far this offseason, the Jays have brought back J.A. Happ on a three-year, 36-million dollar deal, resigned Marco Estrada, traded bullpen revelation Liam Hendriks to

the A's for Jesse Chavez, and, well, that's about it.

Oh yeah, they also didn't offer David Price a contract and let him slip away to the division rival Red Sox. This shows a distinctively more conservative approach than Anthopoulos took, and one that hasn't endeared Atkins and new President Mark Shapiro to fans. Links to players like Chris Davis have resulted in nothing more than rumours, and the new management group seems confident in the team they have currently, even without David Price.

More alarmingly, there has been little headway made on resigning Edwin Encarnacion, who is eligible for free agency in 2016, and has set a deadline before spring training to get an extension worked out, or he'll become a free agent. Without running the risk of being too speculative, Encarnacion's situation could influence Jose Bautista as well, who's also a free agent in 2016.

If Shapiro and Atkins really want to take the team in a new direction, then both Bautista and Encarnacion's careers in Toronto may be over after this season.

Start planning the World Series parade Giants fans: It's one of the strangest phenomena in pro sports currently: the Giants uncanny success in even years. The Giants have won the World Series the past three even years — 2010, 2012, and 2014, and enter 2016 with a very decent shot at continuing their dominance, boasting a revamped rotation that features free agent signings Johnny Cueto and Jeff Samardzija — both reunited with

a National league that has been much kinder to them than the American league.

Both Samardzija and Cueto join Madison Bumgarner to form an elite threesome at the top of the Giants rotation. Add cagey veteran Matt Cain and standout rookie Chris Heston to the mix and you've got a rotation that can power any team to a World Series.

The Cubs are good, and they got even better: If the Cubs were graced with the good fortune of playing anywhere else but the NL Central, they would've been division champions. Clearly they felt spited by their third place finish despite winning 97 games, so they decided to go for the jugular in the offseason, signing one of the most coveted outfielders available, Jason Heyward.

As an added bonus, they were able to pry Heyward away from the division rival Cardinals, and put themselves in position as overwhelming World Series favourites in one move. Many teams would be satisfied with just acquiring Heyward, but many teams aren't harbouring a 107-year World Series drought. They also shored up the back end of their rotation by acquiring Adam Warren in a deal with the Yankees, while also signing John Lackey to a two-year deal, further twisting the knife for the Cardinals in the process. They also signed super-utility man Ben Zobrist to play second base for the departed Jorge Soler, but knowing Zobrist, he'll play at least four other positions in 2016.

If anyone has the firepower to take down the even-year Giants in the National League, it's the Cubs.

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15 STORIES THAT DEFINE

Seahawks don't run the ball:

It seemed like the 2015 Seattle Seahawks were a team of destiny, and the Patriots were destined to be done in by another amazing catch.

After already being burned in previous Super Bowls by David Tyree pinning the ball to the side of his helmet, and Mario Manningham's tightrope act along the sidelines, it only seemed fair that Jermaine Kearse's incredible juggling catch would lead to a Seahawks touchdown and victory. With the ball at the one-yard line following Kearse's amazing grab, and with the Seahawks trailing 28-24 with 26 seconds left in the game, everyone expected the ball to be handed off to Marshawn Lynch — who had been the focal point of the Seahawks' offence all season.

Instead, Pete Carroll called a pass play, and Patriots rookie Malcolm Butler, who had been burned by Kearse on his amazing catch, intercepted the ball, giving the Patriots the improbable 28-24 win, and denying the Seahawks their chance to be two-time defending Super Bowl champs.

Oilers draft McDavid:

You'd think that the NHL would have barred the Oilers from selecting first overall after they did so three times in a row between 2010-2012. But luck was on the Oilers side when the lottery balls were drawn and they were handed the golden ticket: franchise centre Connor McDavid.

The Buffalo Sabres had overwhelming odds to win the draft lottery and get the chance to draft Connor McDavid, thought of by many as the best player to appear in the draft since Sidney Crosby. This looked to be the Sabres' reward for a lost season, where they finished last in the league, and had a 20 per cent chance to win the first overall pick. The fates decided against them however, and it was the Oilers who took home the first overall selection despite only have an 11.5 per cent chance to win.

While McDavid is currently injured, the sense of hope he's given Oilers fans hasn't been present in a very long time, and he will be looking to snap the copper and blue's playoff drought sooner rather than later.

Pacquiao-Mayweather dud:

This was the fight everyone wanted, about five years too late. Initial negotiations between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather started in late 2009, and Mayweather actually signed a contract so fight Pacquiao in March of 2010, but Pacquiao refused to sign. Negotiations continued between the two camps, but with each passing day, a fight between the two seemed more and more unlikely. Finally, the two met in May of 2015, and the fight was far from the epic contest that many people had envisioned. Mayweather won easily using a conservative strategy, causing

an outcry among fans that thought the fight hadn't lived up to its "fight of the century" status. After the fight, rumours surfaced that Pacquiao had fought with a torn rotator cuff in his right shoulder, further causing people to think of how much better the fight could have been if it had taken place while both fighters were healthy and at their peak.

FIFA controversy:

It seemed like Sepp Blatter was untouchable. Even after numerous allegations of corruption within the organization during his tenure, the much-maligned Blatter still managed to get reelected for a fifth term in office in May of 2015, thanks to the resignation of his only opponent in the race.

Just two days before Blatter's re-election, seven FIFA officials were arrested on various charges. Outrage was directed towards Blatter and FIFA, and Blatter resigned shortly after, citing the fact that his "mandate wasn't supported by everyone."

Allegations of bribery and collusion between different football governing bodies surfaced from many different sources regarding the hosting of tournaments, with the 2010, 2018, and 2022 World Cup bidding processes all coming into question. 2015 was an ugly year for the sport that calls itself the beautiful game.

American Pharoah wins the Triple Crown:

American Pharoah made history in 2015 when he swept the Triple Crown becoming the 11th thoroughbred to achieve the title and the first horse to win a grand slam, which includes winning the Triple Crown and the Breeders Cup Classic.

The road to equestrian success was not clear-cut for Ahmed Zayat, the owner of American Pharoah. Zayat has had three horses finish second at the Kentucky Derby before American Pharoah's victory, and even filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2010. Zayat stables came agonizingly close to a Triple Crown in 2012 when their horses Bodemeister and Paynter finished second in each of the three legs. American Pharoah and jockey Victor Espinoza finally helped Zayat realize his Triple Crown dream this year.

The oldest Jockey to win the Triple Crown, an owner with a tumultuous history in horse racing, and three failed attempts at the title make this story worthy of any Disney tear-jerker.

Emoji Extravaganza:

The Los Angeles Clippers weren't prepared to give up DeAndre Jordan without a fight. After verbally agreeing to a contract with the Dallas Mavericks, the Clippers sought to win back Jordan with various players making their way to his Houston home to convince him to stay.

Clippers players Blake Griffin, J.J. Redick, and Austin Rivers all

chimed in over Twitter with various emojis, old man Paul Pierce chimed in as well, tweeting a .jpg of a rocket emoji, because he apparently didn't know how his phone worked. The situation escalated further as the deadline for Jordan to make his decision drew closer, with Blake Griffin taking things to the next level by tweeting a picture of a chair blocking the door of Jordan's home.

Clearly, the Clippers weren't messing around, and they eventually won over Jordan, and convinced him to stay, much to the dismay of Chandler Parsons and the rest of the Dallas Mavericks. If this is how NBA free agency looks like now, bring it on.

Deflategate:

In a year that saw both the Ray Rice and Adrian Peterson domestic abuse scandals, the NFL decided to suspend Tom Brady four games for supposedly letting the air out of footballs.

The scandal pertains to the first half of the New England Patriots AFC championship game against the Indianapolis Colts, where after Brady threw an interception, the ball was taken to the Colts' sideline and measured for its air pressure. Supposedly, the ball was not inflated properly. Eventually, the NFL launched an investigation, and found that Brady had been largely aware of Patriots' equipment staff deflating footballs.

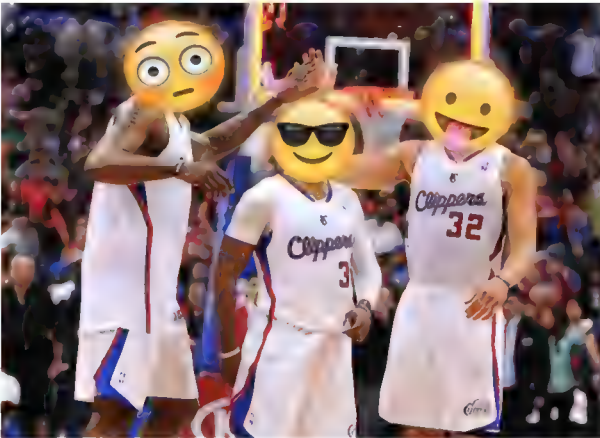
NFL commissioner Roger Goddell suspended Brady four games following the release of the inquiry, and Brady immediately appealed. After the appeal was upheld, the NFLPA filed an injunction against the league, and the case was transferred to court. After the court proceedings, and some of the worst courtroom sketches you'll ever see, the suspension was overturned, and Brady was cleared to start week one against the Pittsburgh Steelers. The word "circus" doesn't even begin to do the situation justice.

Patrick Kane sexual assault case:

Seemingly out of the blue in September, Chicago Blackhawks superstar Patrick Kane was accused of sexually assaulting a woman at his Hamburg, New York home. While accusations like these against athletes are sadly nothing new, the case was made unique by the strange chain of events that occurred after Kane was accused.

Soon after the accusation was made public, a bag of evidence was found on the doorstep of the accuser's mother, leading their attorney to claim the evidence had been tampered. Soon after this, the accuser's attorney quit the case, citing the fact he no longer believed the evidence against Kane was credible enough.

Kane was eventually cleared of all charges, but the story was a huge distraction for both him and his team during training camp. Clearly undeterred by the allegations, Kane went on to record a 26-game point streak early in the regular season, and currently leads the NHL in scoring.



WHAT HAPPENED 2015

Serena Williams dominating the tennis world:

Serena Williams had a historical 2015 season: a 50-2 record, five major title wins, and a number one world ranking solidifying her place in women’s tennis history. She’s seemingly reached her peak at the age of 33, almost completing the season grand slam with victories at the Australian Open, French Open, and Wimbledon. She looked to be on pace for the season slam until she was upset in the US Open semifinals by Roberta Vinci.

Her continuing dominance has put her in a position this upcoming season to pass Margaret Court for the most women’s singles Grand Slam titles of all time. Court holds the record at 24, while Williams currently sits at 21, and is almost a lock to grab the record within the next couple of years.

Williams was also the first woman to win Sports Illustrated’s “Sportsperson of the Year” award since Mary Decker in 1983. (The entire U.S. women’s soccer team won the award collectively in 1999.)

With the way Williams is trending right now, she may be making a few “best of” lists at the end of 2016 as well.

The Blue Jays’ playoff run:

It had been a long 22 years, but this past season the Toronto Blue Jays finally brought playoff baseball north of the 49th parallel once again.

The Jays started much like any other season, hovering around the .500 mark through July, a few games back of a wildcard spot, without much hope that things would change. Except this time, things did change in a major way.

General Manager Alex Anthopolous made several huge deals at the trade deadline, acquiring David Price, Troy Tulowitzki, Ben Revere, and others who would finally push the Jays over the top. The team went 39-15 in August and September, finishing with a 93-69 record, winning the AL East by six games over the New York Yankees.

After falling behind 0-2 in their division series against the Texas Rangers, the Jays proved that their magic hadn’t run out, winning the next three games, including a historic game five that featured one of the strangest errors ever, and the biggest home run in the history of the franchise since Joe Carter’s World Series winning blast in 1993.

The Jays would be eliminated by Kansas City in the ALCS, but the joy they brought to their fanbase will live on forever.

Draftkings and Fanduel controversies:

We could be witnessing the slow death of daily fantasy sports betting.

The controversy started in October, when it was revealed that a DraftKings employee had won \$350,000 on rival daily sports betting site Fanduel. This caused an outcry from fans, who believed the employee had an unfair advantage due to his access to insider information. Soon after that, the New York State attorney general declared that daily fantasy sports sites like DraftKings and Fanduel should be considered illegal in the state of New York.

For their part, both sites maintained that they were fully legal operations, due to the amount of skill needed to succeed in each. Supporters of both sites marched outside of the attorney general’s office chanting “game of skill.” Recently, the New York State attorney general has ordered both sites to pay back all the earnings they’ve made in New York State, which could be a huge blow to both of the sites if they’re forced to do so.

Holly Holm knocks out Ronda Rousey:

Undefeated UFC Champion Rhonda Rousey suffered her first defeat on Nov. 7 in her UFC Bantamweight Title Match against Holly Holm. The outcome was unlike anyone expected, with the fight lasting only one and a half rounds. It was the first time that an opponent had taken Rousey past the first round, let alone knocked her out. Holm’s southpaw technique and heavy background in boxing was perplexing for Rousey, setting her behind Holm’s agile execution.

Concluding the fight, Rousey was put on a six-month suspension from the UFC, due to medical reasons stemming from the knockout. However, she immediately took to Twitter, thanking her fans for the support and vowed that she will be back—with a vengeance. There was much criticism directed towards Rousey for her overly aggressive demeanor before the fight — as she refused to knock gloves with Holm before the fight began. The recent defeat may help Rousey’s battle for redemption, or it may sequentially level the playing field for the UFC women’s division.

Warriors win the championship, and keep on winning:

To say the Golden State Warriors had a good year would be the understatement of the century.

Stephen Curry and co. rolled through the NBA in the regular season, finishing with a 67-15 record, the best in the league since the 1975-76 season. They rode their explosive offence all the way to the NBA finals, where they faced LeBron James and his Cleveland Cavaliers in a dream matchup.

After falling behind 2-1 in the series, the Warriors roared back, winning the next three games in convincing fashion, capturing their first NBA championship in 40 years.

Instead of resting on their laurels, the Warriors got off to an

even better start in 2015-16, winning the first 24 games of the season, eclipsing the 1884 St. Louis Maroons baseball team for the best start to a season in the history of professional sports. Pegged by many as the team that has the best shot to equal or pass the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls 72-10 regular season record, only time will tell if the Warriors ultimately hit that mark, and if they’re able to translate their regular season success to the postseason once again.

UBC wins the Vanier Cup:

UBC’s Vanier Cup victory came at a tumultuous period for a program dealing with rumors of a possible shutdown in 2013, and a new head coach coming into their 2015 campaign.

Despite these questions surrounding the program, the Thunderbirds had an excellent regular season. Led by quarterback Michael O’Connor, a former backup to top quarterback prospect and 2016 NFL Draft eligible Christian Hackenberg at Penn State, the Thunderbirds finished second in Canada West with a 6-2 record, before upsetting the top ranked Calgary Dinosaurs in the Hardy Cup to earn the opportunity to face the University of Montreal Carabins in the Vanier Cup.

The Carabins statistically outmatched the Thunderbirds defensively, coming into the Vanier Cup allowing fewer rushing and passing yards than the Thunderbirds, which meant the Thunderbirds’ defence had to play their best football. They did exactly that by shutting out Montreal’s offence in the first half, taking a 16-0 lead into the half. The Carabins pulled themselves back into the game in the second half, but the Thunderbirds were able to secure the victory on a last second field goal, winning their first Vanier Cup since 1997.

Kobe Bryant announces retirement

The real question is whether the Los Angeles Lakers will retire #8 or #24 in the Staples Center rafters.

The Black Mamba, who helped one of the most storied sports franchises in the world to five NBA championships over an illustrious 20-year career, announced in November that this season was “all he had left to give.” And man, was it a lot.

Kobe Bryant owns 17-NBA All-Star selections, an NBA MVP and two Olympic Gold Medals. But Bryant is bigger than his on-court accomplishments. The global superstar transcended the game of basketball. From his 81-point game against the Raptors, to him leading to “redemption team” to gold in 2008, Bryant has no shortage of great moments over the course of his career.

No players have more than one entry in the NBA HOF and their team’s rafters. Kobe deserves to be that exception.

Compiled by: Zach Borutski, Alyssa Demers, Richard Catangay-Liew, and Oumar Salifou



Diversions

Design & Production Editor
Adaire Beatty

Phone
780.492.5168

Email
production@gateway.ualberta.ca

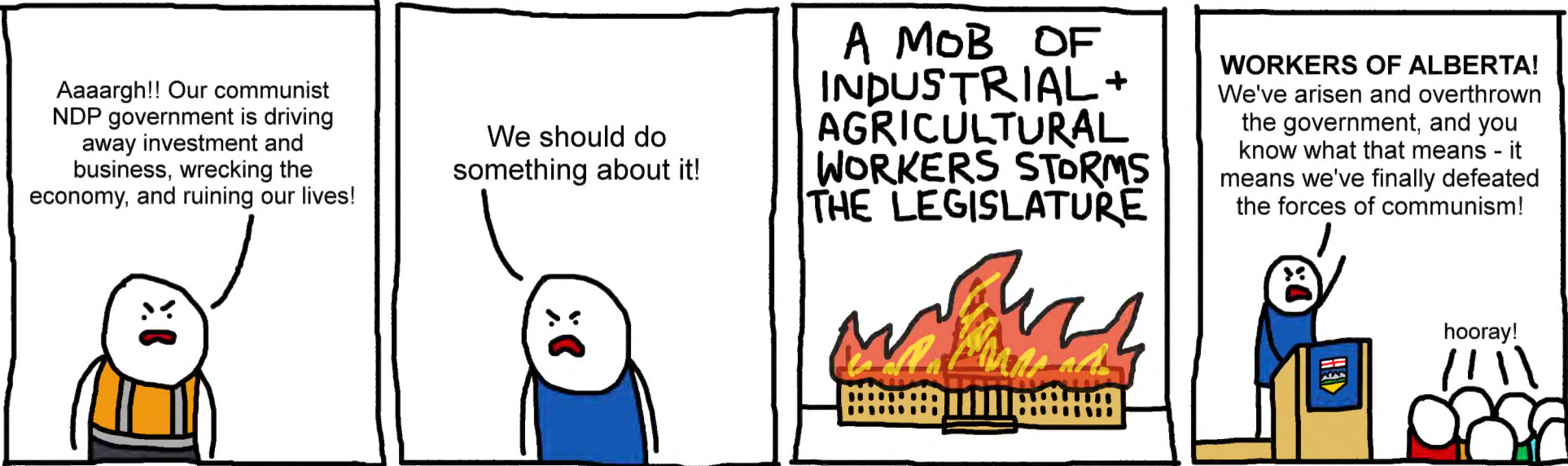
Twitter
@adairejean

Volunteer
Diversions meetings every Thursday at 3pm in SUB 3-04

MEDIOCRE AT BEST by Jimmy Nguyen



STRAIGHT OUTTA STRATH-CO by Alex McPhee



PUPPY OF THE WEEK by Spencer Nichols



IF WE'RE TALKING BODIES

by Kathy Hui

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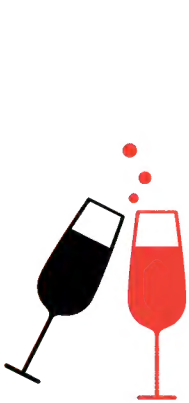
1. Fable teller
6. Relaxing treat
9. Italian staple
14. Female fighter
15. Fascist fictional general
16. Special type of window
17. Dog (Fr.)
18. Consumed
19. Found in Australia
20. 🎵 Dancing truths
23. Type of machine gun
24. French pancakes
29. American TV channel
32. Often begins sentences.
34. Impact
35. Back muscle
36. Not fake
37. Biggest male
38. Real estate stat.
39. Silly
42. Where someone is born (acr.)
43. Daniel of Bond
45. Piece of window glass
46. Snake like fish
47. Physical characteristic
49. Phone number suffix (abbr.)
50. Type of bread
51. Being
52. Type of parrot
54. 🎵 Tin Woodman could use one of these
61. Guacamole's alternative
65. Bad driving behaviour (acr.)
66. Armour on the thighs
67. Foreign to Earth
68. Before
69. Modern letters
70. Golddug
71. Microsoft Network
72. Bat's special power

DOWN

1. Back's curve
2. Employee Owned Holdings Inc (acr.)
3. Cut
4. Keats poem series
5. Asian animal
6. Big city in China
7. Mini-golf stick
8. Type of figure skating jump
9. 🎵 Branded on the head
10. Shoe company
11. Chandelier singer
12. Phone num.
13. ___ carte
21. Exiled
22. Colder than water
25. Australia's football league (acr.)
26. Salt's best friend
27. Like caves and hollow rooms
28. Where horses sleep
29. Stereotypes
30. Dry and lifeless
31. Narrow channel
33. Defiantly marry
36. 🎵 The correct arm
40. Government charges
41. Before the beginning
44. Int'l Genealogical Index (acr.)
48. ___-DYE t-shirts
53. Opposite of 68-Across
55. Mr. Driver of Star Wars VII
56. Floor decors
57. The Great ____, famous wrestler
58. Art school in Ontario
59. Bail's adopted daughter
60. Canon or Nikon
61. Frodo's buddy
62. Stung like a bee
63. NBA's Jeremy
64. Witness

New Years Resolution Horoscopes

by CAM LEWIS



Aries



Drink less coffee in 2016 and instead, do cocaine.

Taurus



Any more bullshit in 2016 and that'll be strike three.

Gemini



2016 will be the year that you can fit an entire watermelon in your mouth.



2006 is finally over!

Leo



Spend all of your money this year on running shoes so that you'll lose weight.

virgo



You can't always get what you want. But you can always order a pizza.

Libra



Even if you travel back in time to kill baby Hitler, you'll be the one who murdered a random Austrain baby.

Scorpio



Check your e-mail more in 2016 because you've been missing out on true love.

stagittarus



Cut off one of your arms and LeBron James will sign back with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Capricorn



Your father will finally say that he loves you and then you'll find out that he is a cactus.

Aquarius



This is the year you quit smoking but you also pick up the habit of eating live cats.

Pices



Make this the year that you aren't an idiot.



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